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COLLECTION OF PAPERS

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE

SEVERAL SCARCITIES

WHICH HAVE HAPPENED IN

THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY

PREVIOUS TO 1866.

108354

COMPILED UNDER THE ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT

BY

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CLASS

EXTRACT FROM A MEMORANDUM ON THE MADRAS FAMINE OF 1866.

1. The Presidency of Madras has not been more fortunate than other Eastern countries, in exemption from the horrors of famine. Indeed, a year rarely passes without distress being felt in some quarter, from severe loss of crops, occasioned by failure of the seasonable rains. The chief cause of these scarcities is described in a letter* to the late Court of Directors, as far back as 1733, to have been the neglect of the irrigation works which had taken place, since the agents of the Mogul Emperor had obtained possession of the country. It was reported in the same letter, that rice had been unusually dear, for the previous ten years, from this cause, and that, whereas it was then (in 1733) sold at Rs. 280 per garce (about $\frac{3}{4}d.$ per lb.) in consequence of a severe scarcity, and Rs. 175 per garce (about $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb.) was then considered to be a moderate price, twenty years previously it had been sold at half the latter rate. It also appears that, during the five years preceding 1733, considerable inconvenience had been occasioned in the settlement of Fort St. George, owing to the high price of grain, so much so, that early in 1729, the Government deemed it proper to fix the price at which grain should be sold at the following rates—

* See Appendix I.

Rice, 13 measures per Rupee (about $\frac{3}{8}d.$ per lb.).

Raggy,[a] 16 measures per Rupee (about $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb.), and to declare that any grain purchased at higher rates should be forfeited to the purchaser, his money being returned to him. It was further ordered, that any person who might have in stock, more grain than was required for his usual annual expenditure, should be obliged to sell the overplus, and that any concealment, should render it liable to confiscation for the use of the Government. It became necessary, however, before the harvest of the same year, to cancel these regulations, and to permit persons to sell at such rates as they thought proper, as it was feared that otherwise no imports of grain would be made by the merchants of the Settlement. Nevertheless, in the following year, a Committee was appointed to superintend the sale of grain. All persons were required to give them notice, if they possessed more than 5 garce (about 21 tons) of rice, or paddy,[b] on penalty of a severe fine, and a reward of Rupees 35, in each case of proved concealment, was offered to informers. Subsequently, the sale of grain was prohibited, except between 6 A. M. and 6 P. M., and the price of rice was fixed at about 16 measures the rupee (about $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb.).

2. The first serious famine of which there are accounts, took place in 1781 and 1782. The Carnatic had been devasted by Hyder Ali's incursions in 1780-81, and the settlement of Madras was reduced to great straits for food, as the whole country in its vicinity was suffering from a general scarcity. Early in 1781, the Government of Madras remitted all import duties on grain, and called upon the officers in charge of the subordinate settlements, to forward all available grain to the Presidency. On the 20th May, they deemed it necessary to appoint a 'Grain Committee' to superintend the daily distribution of grain, in such manner, "that the stock on hand "might not be expended before the month of September, when fresh supplies might "be expected."† This Committee was authorized to fix the price at which grain should be sold, and to limit the quantity disposed of each day. The native mer-

† See Appendix II.

[a] Raggy is a small grain grown on unirrigated land. It is generally used as food by the lower classes, who cannot afford a rice diet.

[b] Paddy is rice in the husk.

chants were also required to enter into penal bonds not to withhold any of the grain in their possession, and were required by proclamation to inform the Committee of the extent of their stores.

3. Shortly after assuming office, and after having made a minute enquiry into the available food supply of the settlement, this Committee reported, that there was not more grain available than would support the population up to the end of June, and in reply, they were directed still further to restrict the daily sales. This precaution caused the greatest distress among the poorer classes, but despite the Committee's utmost endeavours, they were compelled to report, on the 6th July, that there was only two days consumption available. They, at the same time, expressed their belief, that a considerable quantity of grain was concealed by the merchants in different parts of the town. In reply to their communication, the Government authorized them to publish that, in future, all persons would be permitted to sell grain at such rates as they thought proper, independent of the regulations of the Grain Committee, but the Government, at the same time, resolved to supply the Committee with 400 bags of rice daily (a sufficient quantity to support about 60,000 people) from the Company's stores, to be sold by retail under the Committee's superintendence.

4. Matters appear to have remained at this stage for the next six months, but, in January 1782, the pressure of the distress had become much more severe, dying objects were stated to be constantly met with in the streets, and a public subscription was raised for the relief of the poor.* The Europeans subscribed Rupees 2,800 per mensem, and some small subscriptions were also received from the natives. The Government appear to have also contributed to the fund, which was the origin of the existing institution for the relief of the native poor, known as the Monegar Choultry. In the month of May, 4,000 people were being fed by the managers of this fund, and this number seems to have been very largely augmented later in the year. In August, a contribution of Rupees 30,000 was sent to the fund from the European inhabitants of Bengal, but notwithstanding the liberal support accorded to the fund, from all quarters, the Trustees in charge, found themselves quite unable to provide for the multitudes of starving poor who applied to them for assistance, in consequence of the increased pressure occasioned by the scarcity of provisions. They accordingly suggested to Government, that the paupers should be deported to the northern districts, which were then under the authority of the Madras Government, where provisions were comparatively plentiful. The Government agreed to this suggestion, and 9,000 persons were despatched, in parties of a thousand at a time, to the Northern Circars, as the northern Districts of Madras were then styled. They were fed by Government during their transit, and provided with food or employment on their arrival. It appears that 3,000 were sent to Ganjam, and 2,000 to Vizagapatam.

* See Appendix III.

5. Notwithstanding these precautions to prevent the exhaustion of the town supply of food, the Government deemed it necessary, early in October, to, as they described it, "take the supply of rice and food-grain into their own hands," undertaking to purchase, on Government account, at the rates noted in the margin,* all good marketable grain which might be imported. † These prices were to be paid by bills on the locality from whence the grain was imported.

* Rice from Bengal, Pagodas 150 per garce (1¼*d.* per lb.).
Rice from Northern Districts, Pagodas 130 per garce (1⅛*d.* per lb.).
Paddy—Pagodas 75 per garce (⅝*d.* per lb.)
Jonnah and Natcheny Pagodas 80 per garce (⅔*d.* per lb.

† See Appendix IV.

6. These proceedings on the part of the Government, appear to have been most distasteful to the merchants and people of the Settlement. A public meeting was held at the Town Hall on the 11th of October, at which it was resolved to address the Government, deprecating the measures which had been adopted, and observing that the proposed system of payment by bills, on the localities whence the grain was imported, was very objectionable and inconvenient to importers, and that the price offered was inadequate.* In the same address, it was recommended that Pagodas 200 per garce (about $1\frac{3}{4}d.$ per lb.) should be offered for all rice imported up to 20th November, and Pagodas 300 (about $2\frac{5}{8}d.$ per lb.) between that date and the end of December, as it was known that this latter price was then paid in many parts of the country. It was also further proposed, that similar inducements should be held out to importers by land, and that a large proportion of the population of the town, viz., all those whose services were not needed by the Settlement, should be deported to the northern districts. These recommendations do not seem to have met altogether with the approval of Government, though it appears, that the original arrangement regarding the price to be paid for imported grain was so far modified, that merchants were allowed to sell on their own account, at such rates as they thought proper, one-sixth of their cargoes, and two-sixths were sold by the Grain Committee, on account of the consignees, at such rates as seemed desirable, the remainder, or one-half of the cargo, being disposed of to Government, at the fixed price, on the terms above mentioned. Shortly after this modification of the original arrangement, the Government increased the price to be paid for rice, to Pagodas 200 per garce, (about $1\frac{3}{4}d.$ per lb.) up to 20th December, after which date, half the cargoes were left to be disposed of by the owners, the other half being taken at the old rate, of Pagodas 150 per garce, (about $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ per lb.)

* See Appendix V.

7. The scarcity appears to have come to an end in the early months of 1783, and the Government found themselves the owners of an enormous stock of rice, which had been purchased under the arrangements described above. They accordingly assumed the monopoly of all retail sales in July 1783, † which they apparently retained until the surplus stock of rice was sold off, at Pagodas 133 per garce, (about $1\frac{1}{3}d.$ per lb.), which seems to have been the then market price. This rate would give about 7 Madras measures, or 21 lbs. of rice, per rupee, whereas Pagodas 150 per garce, which the Government paid during one period of the scarcity, would give 6 measures, (or 18 lb.), per rupee, and Pagodas 200, would be about $4\frac{1}{2}$ measures (or $13\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.) per rupee. The rate of Pagodas 300, said to be in force in many parts of the country, would give but 3 measures, or 9 lbs., per rupee.

† See Appendix VI.

8. Seven years had scarcely elapsed, when another serious dearth took place in the northern districts of the Presidency, and the pressure was apparently felt for about two years, viz., from November 1790 to November 1792. In April 1791, it was stated, that 1,200 persons had died of starvation in the neighbourhood of Vizagapatam, and early in 1792, the district of Ganjam was in great straits for food, and those of Ellore, Rajahmundry, and Condapilly, in serious distress. From Masulipatam, it was reported, that there had been numerous deaths from starvation in all quarters of the neighbouring country, and the greatest difficulty was felt in supplying the inhabitants of the town with food, though the consumption had been at one time restricted to $\frac{1}{4}$ seer, or half a pound, per head, per diem. The price of rice in the town, had been at one time four Madras measures per rupee (or $2d.$ per lb.). Rice was also raised in price to 12 seers (8 Madras measures), the rupee, ($1d.$ per lb.)

in Ganjam. At an early period, the Government suspended the import and transit duties on all kinds of grain and provisions, and directed the local officers to afford every encouragement and assistance to the merchants in importing grain, but, at the same time, to prevent any improper attempts to raise the prices. They also requested the Bengal Government to encourage the export of grain to the northern districts of Madras, and they imported considerably from the same quarter on Government account. In addition to these measures of relief, the Government found it necessary at the latter part of 1791, to prohibit the export of rice from Tanjore, until June 1792, except to the distressed districts, to permit 50 bags (about 7,500 lbs.) of rice, per mensem, to be distributed in charity, from the Government stores, at Vizagapatam, and to authorize the Collector of Ganjam to feed the poorest classes upon rice and natcheny [a] porridge, at a cost of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300, per mensem. The pressure became at last so severe in this district, that Mr. Snodgrass, the Resident at Ganjam, collected local subscriptions for the relief of the poor, and employed 2,000 of them on public works, paying them their wages in grain from the Government stores.

9 In the early part of 1799, there was considerable distress in the district of Dindigul, in the south, and the Collector was permitted to purchase grain, on the Government account, for the purpose of retail sale to the people.* In the event of the scarcity becoming more severe, he was authorized to dispose of what grain he had in store, or could collect, *at a loss*, in order to lower the general price of grain. It is not clear, however, whether he found it necessary to adopt this extreme measure.

*See Appendix VII.

10. Five years later, or towards the close of 1804, the season was so unfavourable, as to cause severe pressure on the poorer classes in the Tanjore and South Arcot districts. The Collector of the former province took upon himself to purchase 70 garce of rice, at 85 Pagodas the garce, [b] (12½ Madras measures, or 37½ lbs. per rupee) for the purpose of retail sale to the people. A small profit was made on the transaction, which he devoted to the gratuitous support of the poorest among the sufferers. Early in 1805, the scarcity in these two districts had been so severe, that the Collector of Tanjore recommended an embargo on exportation, and the Collector of South Arcot suggested that the importation of rice, should be undertaken, on Government account, from Bengal, and the northern districts, to be sold by retail, at Depots, on behalf of Government, under European superintendence. The Government, on the submission of these proposals, expressed their objection to any interference with the grain market, unless it proved absolutely necessary. They, however, ordered supplies of grain from the northern districts, and from Bengal, and left the question of putting an embargo on exports to the discretion of the Collectors. They also suggested the expediency of advances to merchants, to enable them to obtain supplies.

11. In the latter part of the following year (1805), a general failure of crops seems to have occurred in all parts of the Presidency, and, in reporting the same to Government, the Board of Revenue laid down the principles which, in their opinion, should guide the Government on such occasions. They deprecated in the strongest terms, any interference with the grain markets, either by fixing the price at which grain should be sold, or by importing grain and selling it on Government account,

a Natcheny is the name given to Raggy when cleaned.

b The garce is equal to about 4 tons.

and they also expressed their opinion that to prohibit exportation, which had been suggested, was unnecessary and mischievous. The Government approved of these principles, and the local officers were accordingly directed to be guided by them. The Board advocated the employment of the able-bodied poor on public works, as the only proper means by which the State could alleviate the distress. They, however, objected to the payment of these persons, in grain, as tending to disturb the market. The Government approved of the Board's suggestions, as to the employment of the people, but, as in some places, there were already considerable stores of grain in the Government store-houses, they authorized grain payments, though they concurred with the Board in considering the plan to be opposed to correct principles.*

* See Appendices VIII and IX.

12. Early in 1807, the Government were fully alive to the dangers of the situation, and, in view to increasing the supply of grain, they offered a high fixed price, 110 Pagodas per garce, (under 1*d.* per lb.) for all rice imported into the Madras Presidency up to August, the importer having the option of sale to Government, at the fixed price, or sale to the public, at the market price. Lord W. Bentinck, the Governor of Madras, had advocated the payment of a bounty on all grain imported, as not involving so great a risk to Government as the offer of a fixed price. He was, however, over-ruled by his Council, and, in recording his concession to the views of the majority, he observes, that he concedes the point, because the offer of a fixed price may perhaps insure a more certain supply than a bounty, and "in a case of such vast importance, affecting the very existence of a "great and numerous population, every other consideration must be secondary to "the best means of averting the calamities of a famine."†

† See Appendix X.

13. In February, a Committee was appointed to enquire into certain disturbances which had taken place between the grain dealers and the public, regarding sales of grain by weight or measurement. The Committee recommended that the merchants should be protected in selling by measure. This Committee managed the imports on Government account, but did not apparently interfere with the rates in the local market, in any way, at first. At the Committee's recommendation, the Government extended the period during which the fixed price was to be paid, up to October 1807. They also authorized the employment of the able-bodied poor in the neighbourhood of Madras, and in March, 2,000 persons were so employed. The northern and central districts of the Presidency did not suffer on this occasion, beyond a slight enhancement of prices. The dearth was, apparently, most severe in the districts of North Arcot, Nellore, and Chingleput, (Madras), though it was partially felt in the Ceded Districts, South Arcot, Tanjore, and Trichinopoly, where it was deemed advisable to give employment to the poorest classes on public works. Colonel, afterwards Sir Thomas Munro, was, at this period, Collector of the Ceded Districts, and, when addressing the Board of Revenue on the subject of the impending scarcity, he strongly deprecated any Government interference, either by importing on Government account, or by prohibiting exports, though he considered that the latter measure might be adopted in an extremity. He urged the employment of the people near their homes, to guard against pestilence, which would probably be the result of congregating them in large bodies.‡

‡ See Appendix XI.

14. A very considerable outlay upon public works, and some advances to the people, for the purpose of sinking wells, were sanctioned in the three districts of Nellore, North Arcot, and Madras. Some supplies of grain were also forwarded from the Presidency town, by the Grain Committee, to certain districts, on the

requisition of the Board of Revenue, but, notwithstanding these measures of relief, a considerable number of the inhabitants are stated to have perished from famine in the Provinces. It appeared that Government had contemplated establishing grain Depôts, in those districts where the distress was greatest, but the accounts received from the district officers were somewhat contradictory, and when it was ultimately proposed to forward large supplies of grain from Madras, the mortality which had taken place among the carriage cattle, rendered it impossible to do so.* As an instance of the imperfect information received from the provinces, it may be mentioned, that though in April it was reported that no pressure was likely to be felt in Trichinopoly, in September, the accounts of the district were so alarming, that a large supply of Government rice was at once despatched thither, with instructions to dispose of it to the people, on Government account, at Pagodas 100 per garce, (about $\frac{7}{8}d.$ per lb.).

*See Appendix XII.

15. In the absence of any measures for the relief of the sufferers, in the distressed districts, by the distribution of food, or the sale of grain at low rates, large numbers of the people emigrated to Madras, and besieged the gates of the Monegar Choultry. This institution did much towards the relief of the starving applicants, and all the able-bodied were given employment, on the public works, in the neighbourhood of the Presidency town. For seven months, an average of 2,500 of those, who, from the debility of infancy or extreme age, from infirmity, sickness, or any other cause, were unable to minister to their own wants, were fed gratuitously, at the principal institution. Four Branch Relief Depôts were also opened, for the accommodation of the large number of immigrants from the provinces, and, in the month of August, 15,000 persons were thus relieved. There was considerable mortality among the numbers relieved, partly from disease, and partly from actual starvation, many having died almost immediately after there arrival. An expenditure of considerably upwards of a lac of Rupees, (£10,000), was incurred in these operations, up to the month of August; large subscriptions having been received from the public of Madras, Calcutta, and Bombay.† The Government, also, made liberal contributions to the Institution, in grain, but, notwithstanding these and other demands upon them, it was found, that the offer to purchase grain at a fixed liberal price, had filled the Government store-houses to overflowing. The measure had had, however, the most satisfactory effect in keeping down the price of food, as the knowledge that the Government had so large a quantity, in reserve, prevented the retailers from asking exorbitant prices, but it became eventually necessary to retail on account of Government, in order to reduce the stock. Hence, in September, it was resolved to sell to all comers, at Pagodas 100 per garce, ($\frac{7}{8}d.$ per lb.), or at a loss of ten per cent.

†See Appendix XIII.

16. The scarcity seems to have passed over by October, 1807, and those of the poor who had survived, were returned to their homes. No complete record of the number of deaths which took place, either in Madras, or in the Provinces, in consequence of this famine, is obtainable, but from the recorded deaths, in Madras, during the years 1805-6 and 7*, it would appear that the mortality in 1807 was very serious.‡

Years. Deaths.
* 1805—3,225.
1806—4,902.
1807—17,207.

‡See Appendix XIII.

17. It will be observed that though on the first appearance of the distress, the Government professed to agree with the Board of Revenue, as to the propriety of

non-interference with the grain market, yet, as the danger of the crisis advanced, they abandoned these views, and their proceedings were more in accordance with the opinion of the Court of Directors, as expressed in the following extract from a despatch on the subject, written two years after the event.

"Adverting to the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, as stated in the 4th para to "abstain from all interference in the grain market, by imposing any regulation for the sale of "grain, we remark that, as a general principle, its expediency and justice may be acceded to, but "that it is a practice which ought under no circumstances to be resorted to, we by no means admit "indeed, experience has shown that in India, from some peculiar traits in the native character "it has been necessary for Government to have recourse to such an expedient. Thus, in Bengal, "we find that in the year 1783, a Committee was appointed to superintend the sale of grain "throughout the country, during the famine which existed at that period. This Committee had "not only the power to fix the maximum price of the grain, but was also authorized to compel "persons possessed of large stocks of grain, to dispose of the same, which measures where attended "with the most beneficial consequences, and the fatal effects which were at first apprehended, were "in a great measure averted."

18. The season of the year 1811, was unfavorable in some of the southern districts, and, early in 1812, the Board of Revenue addressed Government on the impending distress, and again laid down, what appeared to them to be the true principles which should guide State interference on such occasions, strongly deprecating any importation of grain on Government account. The Government, on the Board's recommendation, exempted from duty all grain imported from abroad, or transferred from one district to another. No serious distress appears to have been generally experienced throughout the Presidency, on this occasion, but the district of Madura suffered considerably in the years 1812-13-14, and, in the early part of the last-named year, it was found necessary to employ no less than 42,000 people in that district, and to advance a sum of Pagodas 2,000 (£700) to the merchants, in order to assist them in procuring grain from elsewhere. The expenditure in giving employment to the people, from the beginning of the year to 31st of May, or for five months, had been Pagodas 93,000, (£32,550). The distress appears also to have extended to the Canara district in 1812, as the Collector sent in proposals to store grain on account of Government, in order to provide against scarcities in future. His proposal did not, however, meet with the approval of Government.

19. The next general scarcity of which there are any reliable accounts, took place in 1824. The first officer to sound the alarm was the Commercial Resident at Injeram, near Masulipatam, who viewed the rise in prices which had occurred in the autumn of 1823, consequent on the failure of the rains, so seriously, that on his own responsibility, he compelled certain merchants to sell rice at fixed prices, and wrote to the Bengal Government requesting that a cargo of rice might be sent to him, on Government account. When his proceedings were reported to the Madras Government, they gravely censured the course of action adopted by him, pointing out that such proceedings were more likely to create a famine, than to relieve the existing distress.* They also reported to the Government of Bengal, that they had then no reason to apprehend a scarcity. Two months later, however, or in December of the same year, the Madras Government fully realized the danger which the Commercial Resident had foreseen, for the scarcity of grain was by that time severely felt in the town of Madras. There was only one bankshall (warehouse) open for the sale of grain, several deaths from starvation had been reported, many children had been abandoned by their parents in despair, and, at the end of the month, a serious grain riot took place in the town, rendering it necessary to call out the military. The

*See Appendix XIV.

crowd, on this occasion, persistently refused to disperse, until a round of *ball* cartridge had been fired over the heads of the rabble.

20. Matters had now become so serious throughout many parts of the country, especially in the central districts, that the Governor, Sir Thomas Munro, recorded the following minute on the subject—

"The failure of the periodical rains in most of the provinces under this Government, and more particularly in the Carnatic and the western districts, having already raised the price of grain in many places to double its usual rates; and there being reason to suppose that if the present month should pass, without rain, it will still rise much higher—it appears advisable that Government should adopt such measures, without delay, as may be calculated to alleviate the evils of the scarcity which has already begun to be felt."

"The interference of Government on such occasions, as the present, is often very prejudicial, and I know of no way in which it can be safe or useful, unless in suspending all duties on grain—giving perfect freedom to its transit by sea and land, and securing the grain dealers from the violence of the people."

"I therefore recommend, that all duties be taken off for one year, from this date, on all grains imported from Bengal to any place under the Presidency, and on all grain imported by land to any place under this Government. The adoption of this measure will be attended with some loss of Revenue, but it ought not to be put in competition with the great object of relieving the people, as far as may be practicable, from the distress inseparable from a scarcity of food."

21. The Government, accordingly, published a notice admitting all grain free of import duty, and permitting its free transit throughout the country. They also offered a bounty of Rs. 30, per garce, (3*s*. 8*d*. per quarter) on all grain imported from Bengal, Malabar, or Canara, until the 7th June, and all ships bringing grain to the coast, were offered a cargo of salt at Rs. 18, per garce, instead of Rs. 24, the regular price. The Government also directed the Board of Revenue to instruct Collectors to provide labour, on useful public works, for those of the people who could not obtain employment elsewhere. The distress seems to have been very serious, at an early period, in the North Arcot district, and the Collector inquired whether the merchants were to be allowed to sell at their own rates, or whether Government would interfere and fix the prices. * The Government, in reply, directed him to be guided by the true principles of political economy, and to leave the market entirely free, but they sanctioned a subsequent proposal received from him to advance to the cultivators of land, a sum of Rupees 2,500, to be expended in sinking wells, and to be recoverable within three years.

*See Appendix XV.

22. The Board of Revenue had, in the meantime, addressed all the Collectors of districts, requiring them to submit a full report on the crops in their districts, with the proportion they bore to an average crop, and the extent to which they might be calculated upon to provide for the wants of the people, during the coming season, including both seed grain and food; to ascertain what proportion of the people subsisted on rice and other kinds of grain, and how much grain of the previous year's harvest was in store; to state whether their districts were at all dependent on foreign supplies, and if so, to give the extent of such supplies in ordinary years; and to give the usual quantity of the exports of grain by sea, if any. The Collectors were also required to forward weekly returns of the state of the season and crops, and likewise of the ruling prices, as compared with the prices ruling at the same period of the year, during the previous three years.

23. From the information received by the Board, in reply to their requisition, it was found to be necessary, early in 1824, to give State employment to a consider-

able number of people in the Ceded Districts, and in Guntoor, Salem, Vizagapatam, North and South Arcot, Madras, and Nellore. The laborers were paid in money, and the Collector of Nellore's proposal to pay them in grain, was negatived by the Board, and when the same officer proposed, in February, to import grain, on Government account, he was informed that such a course was open to very serious objections.

24. About the middle of the year, the distress among the poorest classes had increased to such an alarming extent, that it became necessary to feed considerable numbers of those unable to labour, both in the town of Madras, and in the districts of Madras, and North Arcot.* In the latter district, rice was selling in July, at 4½ seers, the rupee, in some places.* In September, the Collector of Nellore reported that prices were still rising, and that deaths from starvation, were of frequent occurrence, and that a Relief Depôt was also opened in that district. The accounts from Vizagapatam, in the same month, were so bad, rice selling at 9 seers the rupee,† and people reported to be selling their infant children, that a similar establishment was sanctioned for that district, though the favorable change which took place in the season, in October, rendered it unnecessary to open it. In Madras, the Relief Depôts were managed by the Committee of the Monegar Choultry, to whom Government gave grants-in-aid, and the Government officers managed them in the provinces. The expenditure on relief at each Depôt, was about one rupee (2 shillings,) per head, per mensem. The recipients of relief were divided into two classes, those able to work, and those unable to do so, and each was supplied with a ticket, entitling him to a sufficient dole of cooked food to preserve life; the rations, however, were so arranged, that the recipients were never tempted to continue a burden on charity, when a better provision could be obtained by ordinary labour. The work required of these paupers was of such a nature as might appear most useful, but it was to be determined upon, not so much in regard to the value of the work performed, as to the object of allowing none to eat the bread of idleness who were capable of earning a livelihood. In the town of Madras, several thousand persons were fed at four separate Depôts for several months. † In the Chingleput, or Madras District, about seven thousand persons were also fed, on the same principles, for three months, and in Nellore, two thousand. The funds were provided chiefly by the Government, though some subscriptions were raised in Madras. Though, as late as September, the local journals reported that rice was becoming dearer every day, and that there was no diminution in the number of famished wretches, in and about Madras, the season in October and November was fortunately propitious, and the Relief Depôts appear to have been all closed by the end of the year.

* 3 Madras measures, per rupee, or about 2⅔*d.* per lb.

† 6 Madras measures per rupee, or about 1⅓*d.* per lb.

* See Appendix XVI.

† See Appendix XVII.

25. As noted above, the retail price of rice had risen during one period of this scarcity, to three Madras measures the rupee, (2⅔*d.* per lb.) in North Arcot, and to six measures the rupee, (1⅓*d.* per lb.) in Vizagapatam. The average wholesale price, throughout the Presidency, was Rs. 260, the garce, (27*s.* per quarter) during the year 1824, but in the North Arcot district, the average price was Rs. 450, the garce, during the year, in Nellore, Rs. 300, in Madras district, Rs. 400, in South Arcot, Rs. 300, and in Cuddapah, Rs. 370.‡

‡ *i. e.* from 46*s.* per quarter, in North Arcot, to 31*s.* per quarter, in South Arcot.

26. After an interval of nine years or in 1833, the most serious famine with which the Madras Presidency has been afflicted since the British accession, occurred.

Fortunately, it was principally confined to some of the northern districts, and to the immediate neighbourhood of the Presidency town. In consequence of the fearful loss of life which took place in the Guntoor district, on this occasion, the scarcity is generally known as "the Guntoor Famine," though the districts of Nellore, and Masulipatam also suffered very severely. The accounts of the season received by the Board of Revenue in November 1832, from the districts of Guntoor, Masulipatam, Rajamundry, Nellore, Bellary, and Cuddapah, were so alarming, that the Board addressed Government on the subject, and recommended that the import duty on grain, from foreign ports, as well as the port to port duty, should be remitted. The Government, accordingly, published a notice to this effect, and directed its re-publication in the districts of Tanjore, Canara, and Ganjam, where the season had been comparatively favorable, and they called upon the Collectors of these districts to state, what quantity of grain was likely to be available for export. The Government also directed all Collectors of districts, to confer with the grain merchants of the principal towns, and to exercise their influence to reduce prices, whenever they had reason to believe that the merchants were withholding grain from the market, in hopes of exorbitant profits. They were not, however, to exercise any authority in the matter, but merely to endeavour to effect the objects of Government by personal influence. The district officers were also directed to communicate freely with each other, as to the supplies of grain in each district, and the Commissioner of Mysore was requested to suspend the transit duties on grain.*

*See Appendix XVIII.

27. In the following month (November), the distress had become so severe in Bellary, and in the northern districts of Guntoor, and Nellore, that the Board recommended that a special inducement should be held out to traders to import grain, by the offer of a cargo of salt on favorable terms, and the price of salt to importers of grain, was accordingly reduced from Rs. 25, to Rs. 22, per 100 Indian maunds.* The Government also authorized an increase to the police forces of the Guntoor, and Masulipatam districts, as the country was reported to be in a disorganized state, and to be infested by bands of marauders which daily increased in numbers, owing to the alarming rise which had taken place in the price of food. They also expressed their willingness to give relief, by the issue of cooked food, when absolutely necessary, under the same restrictions and arrangements, as had been sanctioned in 1824. They further directed the employment of the able bodied poor, on roads, and other useful public works, in the distressed districts. The proposals of the Collectors of Masulipatam and North Arcot to import rice, on Government account, from Bengal, were however steadily opposed by Government, who explained that there was abundance of rice in Tanjore, and Ganjam, which would, in the natural course of trade, be imported to those districts, in order to obtain the advantage of the high prices ruling. In sanctioning a small expenditure by the Collector of Nellore on the relief of the poor, in the following January, the Government, after remarking that it was questionable whether the scarcity was as severe as it had been in 1824, observed, that it was objectionable to distribute food to the poor, gratuitously except under very exceptional circumstances, as such a course could not fail to attract large multitudes of people, who should subsist by labour, and further, was likely to create alarm, as leading people to suppose that the scarcity of food must be excessive. †

* About 3½ tons.

† See Appendix XIX.

28. Early in 1833, strict injunctions were issued to all the district officers, against any interference with grain in transit from one place to another, and peremp-

tory orders against any attempt to force the markets, by the employment of threats or persuasions, in order to throw in a larger supply of grain into any particular place, than would reach it in the natural current of mercantile speculations, were issued to all subordinate officers.* It was, however, found necessary to sanction a large expenditure on public works, in the districts of Salem, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Cuddapah, South Arcot, Bellary, Nellore, Masulipatam, and Guntoor, in order to provide labour for the poorer classes, and in the districts of Guntoor, Masulipatam, Nellore, and North Arcot, those who were unable to labour, would have perished, had not some Government Relief Depôts been opened, where they obtained cooked food. In February, 1,500 people were being fed at the Monegar Choultry, in Madras, and large numbers of paupers flocked to this institution, from the northern districts, and North Arcot, in this, and the following months, so much so, that at the beginning of May, there were about 12,000 natives of these districts being fed there.

* See Appendix XX.

29. A lamentable picture of the distress in the Presidency town, is given in the local journals of the day. Rice was selling at seven measures, the rupee.* Groups of people were seen dying of starvation in the streets, every day, and the number of applicants for relief at the Monegar Choultry, were quite beyond the means of the institution. Such large crowds of starving paupers had reached Madras, that the outbreak of some serious epidemic was apprehended by the medical officers, and, in April, the Government issued orders, strictly requiring all Collectors not to permit the poorer people of their districts to emigrate to Madras, but to provide them with employment, and food, if necessary, near their own homes. As to the latter system of relief, they however explained, that it was a dangerous expedient, likely to attract large numbers of poor from all parts of the province, and too apt, if not well regulated, to aggravate the distress it was intended to alleviate.† It seems also, that large numbers had emigrated from Guntoor, and Masulipatam, where the distress was most severe, to Nellore, and the Collector was ordered to require all such persons to return to their own villages. In the same month, it become necessary, in South Arcot, to grant advances, re-payable in two years, for sinking wells.

* 1½*d.* per lb.

† See Appendix XXI.

30. In the first fortnight of April, no less than 166 deaths from starvation had taken place in one-half of the Guntoor district, and it was feared that the remainder of the district had not been more fortunate. From Masulipatam it was reported, in May, that large numbers of persons had perished from actual starvation. They were being relieved at the Depôts, by the issue of a quarter of a measure of grain (¾lb.) to each person, but those who laboured, were allowed half a measure.‡ At the end of the month, matters had become so bad in Guntoor, that application was made for the importation, on Government account, of 19 garce of Tanjore rice, at Rs. 319, the garce, the selling price in Guntoor, but Government objected, on general principles. In June, 33,000 people were being fed, and 7,000 employed under the management of the Committee of the Monegar Choultry, and those paupers receiving relief in Madras, who were natives of northern districts, were deported thither in large numbers. The distress increased terribly in Guntoor in this month. Rice had reached Rs. 421, per garce, in price,† and the Collector reported, that out of a population of 500,000, about 100,000 persons would need to be fed, or employed.§

‡ See Appendix XXII.

† 43*s.* per quarter.

§ See Appendix XXIII.

31. By August, matters were much worse, everywhere. Serious grain riots occurred in Madras, but were fortunately quelled by the aid of the troops, without any loss of life. In Vellore, rice was selling at 4½ measures, the rupee,* the distress was reported to be dreadful, and the horrible spectacle of a mother devouring her dead infant, was seen in the streets of the town. The Collector of Masulipatam begged for rice, on Government account, but was refused, as the Madras merchants were known to be throwing in grain. From Nellore, most harrowing accounts were received. Though 10,000 people were being fed in the town, the roads were strewed with dead bodies. The Rajamundry district was in distress. The district officers, by the aid of funds subscribed by private persons, had been feeding 5,000 people since March, but the expenses had become so heavy, that this could no longer be done. The assistance of Government was accordingly requested, which was granted, with the same restrictions which had been prescribed in other districts.* At the end of this month, the price of salt to grain importers was reduced to Rs. 15, per 100 Indian maunds, as a further inducement to importation, and at the same time, a bounty of Rs. 20, per garce, was offered on all grain imported from Bengal, Malabar, or Canara, to any port on the east coast of the Madras Presidency, before 15th November. This appears to have caused imports to the extent of 1,402 garce, at Madras, 551 at ports of Rajamundry, and 905 at ports of Masulipatam and at ports of Guntoor, 5 at ports of the Madras District, and 9 at ports of Tinnevelly. In all, 2,872 garce, (about 12,700 tons), for which Rs. 57,440 were paid, as bounty.

* About 1¾*d.* per lb.

*See Appendix XXIV.

32. Notwithstanding all these efforts to relieve the distress, and the large expenditure in feeding and employing the people in the districts of Guntoor, Masulipatam, and Nellore, and in spite of the reiterated orders to employ and feed those who required assistance in their own districts, it was found that people were still flocking towards Madras. In September, upwards of 70,000 were fed at the Monegar Choultry and the subordinate Depôts, and 10,000 were employed in the neighbourhood, and in view to removing some of this crowd of paupers from the Presidency town, it was then deemed advisable to employ them in gangs of 3,000, or 4,000, on the northern trunk road. They were subsisted and paid by Government.†

†See Appendix XXV.

33. In addition to the enormous expenditure incurred at Madras in the relief of distress, about three lacs of Rupees (£30,000) were expended at the provincial Depôts, during the scarcity. A lac of rupees, were spent in each of the districts of Guntoor, and Nellore, Rupees 20,000 in Masulipatam, and South Arcot, Rupees 32,000 in the Madras district, and, during the latter half of the year, smaller sums in North Arcot, Madura, Salem and Cuddapah. The scarcity was generally at an end, after the harvest of 1834, and it was not considered necessary to suspend the import duties after 31st January in that year. The Guntoor district, however, continued to suffer very severely, and even in the middle of June 1834, upwards of 10,000 people were employed there, on public works, at a monthly cost of Rupees 22,000, and upwards of Rupees 500 per mensem was spent in feeding the poor. In July and August, it was found feasible to reduce operations, and by the end of the year, all extraordinary measures ceased. At certain periods of this terrrible famine, the retail price of rice had risen, as already stated, to seven measures, and on one occasion, at Vellore, to three and a half measures the rupee, and the average wholesale price of the grain during the year 1833, was Rupees 354, the garce, in Guntoor, Rupees 287 in Masulipatam, Rupees 285 in Nellore, and Rupees 260 in the Madras and North Arcot districts.†

† *i. e.*, from 36*s.* per quarter, in Guntoor, to 27*s.* per quarter, in Madras.

34. There are, unfortunately, no accessible returns from which to estimate the number who died of famine in the year, 1833, but it was estimated by an officer of the Engineers, that in Guntoor alone, 150,000 persons, out of a population of 500,000, perished from this cause. In alluding to these terrible figures, he observes:—

"This is not an ordinary statistical fact—this is no record of so many millions of yards of cloth exported, and so much sugar imported, no detail of so many people clothed and so many palates indulged. Here we read of a body of human beings, much larger in number than the whole Armies of India, not marching with the prospect of glory, promotion and prize money, but leaving their homes, wandering into strange lands, with no excitement, but the cravings of hunger and the agonies of thirst. Of these miserable pilgrims, a mass equal to all the Bengal and Madras Armies put together; a number of whose corpses laid side by side, would closely line both sides of a road 20 miles in length; three times as many as all the British Soldiers killed in the Peninsula war; men, women, and children, ten times more than the victims of Cabul, died not among shouts and cheering, by the quick blow of bullet or bayonet, not in the course of a few nights, frozen to the sleep that ends in death, but by lingering illness and gnawing pangs prolonged for days and weeks."

"It is distressing, but it may be useful, to dwell upon the horrors of these calamitous seasons. We are apt not sufficiently to consider, in reading of 150,000 people killed by famine, how much individual wretchedness is indicated by those six digits. We shrink from the six hundred tales of broken up village communities, the uncultivated lands, the uncelebrated feast, the fierce contest at the well, the thronged burning ground, the unburied dead. We like not to contemplate the spectacle presented in thousands and tens of thousands of families, the herdsman with his uncomplaining cattle dying around him, stripping the coarse thatch from his roof, in the vain hope of sustaining the lives which for years have been the greatful objects of his care, the sheep burnt to death with the withered grass, the hungry children and their starving parents, the famished mother, unable to moisten the parched throat of her dying infant, or the hard struggle between the strong ties of kindred and the stronger instinct of self-preservation."

"Let it be remembered, that the famine of 1833 was by no means confined to the Guntoor district. Many must have a lively recollection of its disastrous effects in other parts of the Presidency, as well as of the multitudes that came in search of food to Madras itself, where some measure of relief was afforded them."*

35. It is also difficult to make any estimate of the loss of property occasioned by this famine throughout the whole Presidency, but, as regards the Guntoor district, the following remarks are made on this subject, in the report submitted to Government by the Public Works Commissioners in 1852.

"The loss of revenue and the destruction of property were immense. First, to take the land revenue; the average collections in the six years preceding Fusly 1242, (1832-33) were 13,94, 168 Rupees; in that year they fell to 6,58,500 Rupees, and in the following two years they were 6,71,654 Rupees, and 5,11,593 Rupees, respectively. Since that time, they have gradually increased, but the average annual amount up to Fusly 1260, (1850-51) is only 9,86,284 Rupees, being a loss of 4,07,884 Rupees yearly, or of 77,49,796 Rupees on the whole. Even this statement does not fairly present the whole case; for, all the Zemindaries (Proprietors Estates) having fallen hopelessly into arrears, (of land tax) the whole of them were taken under management in Fusly 1245, (1835-36) and since that time, the Government collections include all that part of the total or gross collections, which formerly went as income to the zemindar, and in payment of his establishments.

"It is singular to observe, how uniform the falling off was in all branches of the revenue. In the Sayer, (inland customs) it was very marked, as was to be expected; the average of the six years preceding Fusly 1242 was 1,01,438 Rupees: in that year, it fell to 64,554 and in the following year to 45,707; in salt, the falling off was from 3,85,000 in Fusly 1241 to 1,60,000 in Fusly 1242:

* From an article on the effects of the Famine of 1833, in the Madras Journal of Literature, for 1844-45, by Captain Best, Madras Engineers.

in Moturpha, (professional tax) from 63,000 in 1241 to 23,200 in 1242, and 26,000 in 1243 : in Abkary, (excise on liquor) from 13,232 in Fusly 1241, to 12,341 in Fusly 1242, and 4,808 in 1243 : in sundry small Farms, from 13,779 in Fusly 1241, to 9,556 and 4,484 respectively, in the following two years. In some branches, the revenue has never recovered itself, but is still below its former standard ; salt regained its normal amount the soonest, that is, in about ten years; being less dependent than the others on the local consumption. It has indeed increased materially above what it was before the famine : this probably is owing to a more rigorous management. The average yearly loss on all these sources of revenue, as compared with the six years preceding the famine, is 1,02,784 ; and the aggregate loss in the eighteen years, (after deducting 3,18,000 Rupees as the probable amount of the deficit through the abolition of the Sayer duties in 1844) amounts to 15,32,112 Rupees."

"It is difficult to estimate the actual loss to the Zemindars and the cultivating classes ; but an approximate judgment may be formed. According to the theory of the settlement, the Zemindars were to have 30 per cent. of the gross collections from the Ryots ; and thus supposing them to have taken from the Ryot half the gross produce of the soil, (an out-side estimate) the Government revenue would be 35 per cent. of the gross produce. Considering that during the period of distress the Ryots certainly paid to the Zemindars, and they to Government, a larger proportion than usual, of their actual income, respectively, it might be safely assumed that the loss was in the proportion above given ; but we will take the loss of the Zemindars and the Ryots, at only 60 per cent. of the whole, instead of 65 ; and then the total loss to Government, Zemindar, and Ryot, from diminished cultivation and failure of crop, will amount to 1,93,75,000 Rupees."

"Add to this, eighteen lacs, the value of cattle and sheep that perished in the famine, and 15,32,112 Rupees, the amount lost to Government, as above stated, in the miscellaneous items of revenue, (without attempting to compute the loss to individuals in the various branches of trade and manufacture concerned), and the total loss by the famine, up to the present time, is found to amount to the enormous sum of 2,27,07,000 Rs. ; or above two and a quarter millions sterling."

36. Though occasional partial scarcities occurred in some localities, between 1834 and 1854, it was not until the latter year, that any district of the Madras Presidency was again visited by famine, and then it was fortunately almost entirely local in its effects, being principally restricted to the Bellary district. The rains which usually fall in the months of October and November, ceased at an unusually early period in the year 1853, and the showers which usually fall in June and July, had been scanty. The grain harvest were consequently almost universally deficient, and prices rose to such a height, that considerable distress occurred in several parts of the Presidency, and necessiated the undertaking of public works for the employment of the poor, in several districts. In the Bellary district, however, the season had been exceptionally unfavorable, an average fall of only 9½ inches of rain having fallen during the year, against an average of about double that quantity in previous years. The harvest in the entire district, did not yield more than half a crop, and, at the beginning of 1854, prices were double the usual rates. The drought continued through the earlier months of this year, and fodder for cattle generally failed, so that about one-third of the cattle in the district perished. The stock of the previous year's grain was small, for serious damage had been occasioned by the storm in 1851 to several of the irrigation works of the district, and in 1852, the falls of rain had been unseasonable, and the crops short. Prices consequently continued to rise, until in June, July, August, and September, they were three times the ordinary rates. The reports submitted by Mr. Maltby, then a Member of the Board of Revenue,* give a concise account of the state of the district during those months of 1854, when the pressure was greatest, and of the measures of relief adopted.

*See Appendix XXVI.

37. It appears that it was not deemed advisable, on this occasion, to afford relief in any shape, except by offering employment on public works, at a fair rate of wages, in money. About 16 lacs of Rupees were expended on this account, during the year, and the numbers employed, varied from about 9,000 in January, to 97,000 in July, from which date they steadily decreased. At one period, however, about 8 per cent. of the population were receiving charitable assistance, in this form. It was estimated, that the whole of the work performed on this occasion, cost about three times what it could have been executed, for in the ordinary manner, so that about two-thirds of the outlay incurred, should be debited to charity.

38. It will be perceived from the foregoing paragraphs, that previous to the famine of 1866, the Madras Presidency had been visited with no less than five serious dearths, within the preceding hundred years. In 1782, rice was sold at from three to about six Madras measures, per rupee ($2\frac{2}{3}d.$ to $1\frac{1}{3}d$ per lb.); in 1807, from seven to eight measures, the rupee ($1\frac{1}{3}d.$ to $1d.$ per lb.); in 1824, from three to six measures, ($2\frac{2}{3}d.$ to $1\frac{1}{3}d.$ per lb.) at certain periods, though the average price during the year, was from seven to nine measures, per rupee, ($1\frac{1}{3}d.$ to $\frac{8}{9}d.$) per lb. in the distressed districts. In 1833, prices ranged at the periods of the greatest distress, from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 measures, per rupee ($2\frac{1}{4}d.$ to $1\frac{1}{3}d.$ per lb.) though the average price, during the year, in the most distressed part of the country, was from nine to twelve measures, the rupee, and in 1854, cholum, the common food of the people of Bellary, was sold at four times the usual price. It will also be observed, that while in the case of the first two famines, the Government disregarded the received rules of political economy, fixing the price of food in the one case, and importing largely, on Government account, in the other, they adhered to these rules, as far as possible, on the other three occasions on which the Madras Presidency was visited with famine.

APPENDIX I.

Extract from a General Letter to the Court of Directors, 1733.

* * * * *

"Before this country was conquered by the Mogul, it was divided into several circles under the government of particular Rajahs, which descended from father to son. Their revenues for the most part were from the produce of the land, and they therefore were always careful to keep up the banks of the tanks, or reservoirs of water, and to cleanse them of the mud; of which they were at the expense themselves, knowing that the land would produce more or less according as they had a quantity of water. But the Moguls who have now the government of the country, and are continued in those governments only during pleasure, do not think themselves under the same obligation to be at that expense for their successors; By which means in process of time the tanks are almost choked up, and great part of the lands lie uncultivated for want of water. This alone would occasion grain to be scarce and of course dear; to which if we add the rapacious disposition of the Moguls, altogether intent upon making the most of their governments, while they continue in them, we need not seek far for the reason why even within these ten years the lands which are tenanted are let for more than double what they were before. Your Honours will easily conceive what effect it must have upon the produce of such lands; and we need not say much more to demonstrate it to you. Certain it is that Paddy at 25 Pagodas the garce, is in these times thought cheap; whereas twenty years ago at that price it was reckoned a famine. The scarcity at present is so great that it sells for 40 Pagodas a garce, and our November rains failing us this year gives us a melancholy prospect of the next harvest."

APPENDIX II.

Minute by the President, dated 18th May 1781.

The President finding that the superintendence of the daily sales of grain requires more time and attention than he can, in the multiplicity of his avocations, bestow on it, though perfectly sensible that it is an object of the highest importance, at this critical period, when further supplies are uncertain until September next, proposes that three Company's Senior Servants be appointed a Committee under him, to superintend the distribution of the grain daily, and to use every means which can be devised for lessening the consumption, so that the present stock be not all consumed before September, when further supplies may be expected; he is of opinion that Messrs. Robert Hughes, George Moubray, and William Webb are Gentlemen well qualified to form this Committee, and that they can attend alternately without any material inconvenience to their other employs.

Letter from Secretary to Government, to Grain Committee, dated 20th May 1781.

The apprehensions of distress from a scarcity of grain in this Settlement are at present so great, that the Honourable the President and Council have judged it incumbent on them to adopt every measure that can be devised for preventing any improper consumption of Rice and Paddy throughout the bounds, and the Board have in consequence been pleased to appoint you to be a Committee under the Honourable the President for superintending the daily distribution of grain, and for establishing such Regulations as may tend to the lessening the consumption in such measure that the present stock be not all expended before September next, when further supplies may be expected.

Letter from Grain Committee, to Government, dated 23rd May 1781.

We have been made acquainted by a letter from Mr. Secretary Freeman, of the 20th instant, that you have been pleased to appoint us "a Committee under the Honourable the President for "superintending the daily distribution of grain, and for establishing such Regulations as may tend "to lessening the consumption in such manner that the present stock be not all expended before "September next."

APPENDIX II.

Fully sensible of the importance of the task you have assigned to us, and of the difficulties which must attend us in the execution of it, we humbly conceive it will be proper before we take the charge upon us, that we be furnished by your Honour, &c., with full and particular information respecting the manner in which this business has hitherto been conducted, together with the following accounts:—

An account of the quantity of grain in this Settlement for sale, exclusive of the Company's stock.

An estimate of the probable imports of grain between this time and the 1st of September next.

An account of the daily issues of grain in the several Bazaars for these last three months.

We also request to be favoured by the Honourable the President with a report of the nature of the difficulties he has experienced in the execution of this charge, and which have induced him to require the assistance of a Committee, such information being absolutely necessary to enable us to form the Regulations you expect from us.

As you have been pleased to acquaint us that our appointment is to superintend the daily distribution of grain under the President, and to establish Regulations for lessening the consumption, we wish to be informed, whether it be your intention that we should propose Regulations merely for the approval of the Honourable the President, and act under his orders as Assistants in superintending the sales, or whether you mean to invest us with any efficient powers to proceed in these points as we shall judge necessary. In this last case, it will be highly expedient that we be informed of the nature and extent of those powers, as the interests of many individuals may be affected by them.

Without the lights we have requested, it will be impossible for us to do justice to the appointment. We hope you will pardon our solicitude to acquire them in consideration of the peculiar delicacy and importance of such a trust at this juncture, and that you will be pleased to comply with any further requests of this nature which in the course of our proceedings we may find it necessary to prefer to you.

Letter from Secretary to Government, to Grain Committee, dated 24th May 1781.

I am directed by the Honourable the President and Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to inform you that they cannot furnish you with the accounts you require, but the President, who has hitherto had the superintendence of the grain, will give you every information and assistance in his power; this was the reason of your being appointed a Committee under the President—nor is it his intention to interfere further in the business; it is the pleasure of the Honourable Board that you have the entire management and regulation of the sales of grain, and that you daily make a report to the President, of the quantity expended, received, and remaining. In your calculations you must not reckon the Company's grain, as that is to be appropriated solely to the use of the Army and Garrison.

I am further directed by the Honourable Board to desire that you will immediately enter upon this business, as many inconveniences may arise from delays.

Letter from Grain Committee, to Government, dated 25th May 1781.

We have now to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Secretary Freeman's letter of yesterday's date. We propose in consequence of the explanations therein given to us to apply immediately to the President for the information which we requested from you.

Since you have been pleased to acquaint us that the entire management and regulation of the sales of grain is to rest solely upon us, we feel ourselves burthened with a charge for the due execution of which it becomes requisite that we be furnished with ample powers: but as you have not deemed it expedient to communicate to us the nature and extent of the authority you wish us to exercise in this trust, we hope you will excuse our troubling you a second time upon this head, and

with a view of ascertaining your ideas, with more precision, we beg leave to put the following queries:—

Whether all the Conicopolies and black servants of every denomination, who have hitherto been employed under the orders of the President in the management of the grain business, are to be solely under our direction, and liable to dismission upon satisfactory proof being produced to us of their misconduct. Whether we are to have the power of calling and compelling, if necessary, any person or persons who, we are informed, have dealings in grain, to appear before us to give any information we may require from them?

Whether we are to have the power of searching any house or place which may be suspected of containing grain secreted for the purpose of private sales, and obliging the proprietors to bring it to the public Banksall to be sold on the same footing as other grain?

Should your Honour, &c., think it proper to invest us with the powers implied in the before mentioned queries, and without which it will be impossible for us to discharge our trust with satisfaction to you, or with justice to our own characters, we request that you will circulate notice through the Black Town, that we have been appointed by you a Committee for the entire management and regulation of the sales of grain, and that such persons as we may find it necessary to call before us are immediately to appear on our summons.

The present prices at which grain is retailed, having, we understand, been fixed by the Governor, we shall not take it upon us to make any alteration in them without your consent and approbation.

We request you will appoint four of the Company's Civil Servants to assist us in superintending the sales and taking an account of the expenditure of grain at the different Banksalls.

We also request that we may be allowed to charge for such a number of black servants as we may find it necessary to employ.

Letter from Secretary to Government, to Grain Committee, dated 27th May 1781.

I am desired by the Honourable the President and Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to them of the 25th instant, and to inform you they are concerned to observe that you procrastinate the execution of the charge committed by them to your care, when you must be sensible that the distribution of grain for daily consumption requires immediate attention, and that the information you now desire could be afterwards obtained.

In answer to your queries, they direct me to inform you—

That all Conicopolies and black servants of every denomination employed in the grain business by the Honourable Company (except for their own Garrison Stores) are to be under your direction, and you may dismiss them and employ others on your being satisfied with regard to their misconduct.

Should you have information of large quantities of grain being stored by individuals and not brought to market, you are to represent such circumstances to the Honourable Board, who will determine on the propriety of taking measures for compelling them to sell the same; but you can never be supposed to have the power of compelling any person or persons having dealings in grain to appear before you and to give you such information as you may require, nor to search houses for grain. The Honourable Board are also of opinion that the notice you desire to be published in the Black Town would tend to create confusion, and impress the minds of the people with suspicions that their grain was to be forcibly taken from them, which is by no means the intention of the Board, except in case of the last necessity, when all offered for sale has been expended and no more can be obtained by encouragement or lenient measures.

It must be your care to prevent, as far as may be in your power, the prices of grain from rising, as they are now almost beyond the purchase of the poor; but the Honourable Board have no objection to your making such alteration in these rates as you may deem proper for the satisfaction of the importers.

The Honourable Board not having been furnished with the extent of your plan for supplying the Settlement daily with grain, cannot form any idea of the necessity for your having four Civil Servants as Assistants, and therefore do not nominate them at present; but they think it reasonable that you should charge for such an additional number of black servants, as you may deem proper, for the execution of this service, which they are persuaded will tend greatly to the relief of the poor and individuals by their being supplied daily with convenience.

Letter from Grain Committee, to Government, dated 2nd June 1781.

We have had the honour to receive your letter of the 27th ultimo, to which we shall now beg leave to reply.

It has given us much concern to find that the application we made to you for those particulars which we conceived would be necessary to enable us in any degree to fulfil the intention of our appointment, should have been construed into a desire of procrastinating the execution of the charge committed to us. In order to vindicate ourselves upon so heavy an accusation, we must beg leave to observe that in your letter of the 20th May, you acquaint us that the purpose of our appointment is to superintend the daily distribution of grain in such manner that the present stock might not be all expended before September next. But at the time you committed this charge to us, we were totally uninformed both in regard to the stock of grain on hand and the expected imports between that period and the month of September; and without the necessary information upon these points, we cannot perceive how it was possible for us to take a single step towards proportioning the daily distribution and regulating the sales. Your Honour, &c., will be pleased to remember that our application to you for the particulars above mentioned was dated the 23rd ultimo, and that your reply, in which you referred us to the Governor for the information we required, was dated the 24th. The information we obtained in consequence of this reference did not come to our hands until the evening of the 26th; and it was not before the receipt of your letter of the 27th, which came to us also in the evening of that day, that the Conicopolies and other black servants usually employed in the distribution of grain were put under our orders. Hence it is evident we were not qualified to act with any propriety in the business entrusted to us until the 27th, in the evening, when we lost not a moment in entering upon the charge, and you will accordingly find that the sales of the 28th were made under our orders. Nothing indeed but the urgency of your commands to us to begin upon the distribution of grain could even at that time have justified our proceeding for the accounts furnished by the Governor were so inexplicit as to be of little use, and we were obliged to regulate the sales chiefly by conjecture until we had made the necessary inquiries from the Coincopolies and others who were capable of giving us information.

In the answers which your Honour, &c., were pleased to make to the second and third queries contained in our letter of the 25th, you say "that we can never be supposed to have the power of compelling any person or persons who have any dealings in grain to appear before us and to give us "such information as we may require, or to search houses for grain." We take leave to assure you that we never did suppose that we had any such powers, nor do the queries themselves imply it; on the contrary, they were proposed with a view of ascertaining whether you meant to intrust us with such powers as we conceived they were necessary to fulfil the extensive charge you had committed to us by your letter of the 24th ultimo. It is true we thought at the time that such powers would more properly be exercised by you in your characters as President and Council or Justices of the Peace; but when you judged it expedient to delegate to us the *entire management and regulation of the sales of grain belonging to individuals* with a view of averting the dreadful consequences of famine, we felt a responsibility equal to the extent of such a trust, and we conceived it could not have been expected from us to take the responsibility without an adequate degree of power.

APPENDIX II.

It affords us much satisfaction to have received an explanation from you, by which we learn that you mean to reserve these powers in your own hands, and that you expect only from us to give you information whenever we think it necessary, that you should exercise them. By this means we are relieved from the dangerous responsibility which seemed to be implied by your letter of the 24th ultimo, and we shall not fail to apply to you whenever we may see cause for the interposition of your authority.

The use we intended to make of the four Assistants which we requested, was to superintend the immediate delivery of the grain at the Banksalls both by way of check upon the quantity expended, and to see that an equal and impartial distribution was made.

Having now replied to your letter of the 27th ultimo, we proceed to report to you such parts of our proceedings as seem necessary for your immediate information.

From the best accounts we have been able to obtain, the stock of grain on hand for sale this day, including what is now in the road, is about 550 garce of Paddy, and of Rice about 150 garce. The issues cannot, we find upon the most moderate allowance, be reduced to a less quantity than 29 or 30 garce of Paddy, or about 15 garce of Rice a day. In the months of February and March last, we find that although the present scarcity was then apprehended, and the sales in some degree restrained, almost double the above quantity was daily sold.

Allowing only 29 or 30 garce of Paddy, or 15 garce Rice daily for the future consumption, the present stock will last no longer than to the end of this month. We think it necessary to apprise you of this circumstance, that you may take the most effectual measures in your power for obtaining the supplies which will be still further wanted.

With respect to the probable imports from Bengal, we have only accounts of two or three small Vessels with grain being on their passage, and these have been out so long, that they may be considered as missing. We have little reason to expect any other supply from this quarter before the 1st September, so that in the present circumstances our hopes are entirely turned upon what may be brought from the Northern Ports on the Coast, and the extent of this supply will depend, in a great measure, upon the encouragement and protection which it may be in your power to give to private traders. But we do not imagine, that even with every assistance you can afford, a larger quantity can be imported by private traders than will be sufficient for three weeks consumption, so that there must remain five weeks before the 1st September, to be provided for by the extraordinary exertions of Government, and we doubt not but these will be made with the utmost diligence when we inform you that there is great reason to apprehend that the scarcity will be chiefly felt in the course of next month.

His Highness the Nabob having sent us a list of the servants depending upon his family, amounting in all to 7,380 men, and required a daily supply of grain for that number, we request to be furnished with your orders for our guidance.

Letter from Secretary to Government, to Grain Committee, dated 4th June 1781.

I am directed by the Honourable the President and Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, which was received yesterday at noon.

The Board cannot admit that there was any necessity for your delaying to regulate the quantity of grain to be daily expended until you received an answer to your letter of the 23rd ultimo, as the Grain Conicopoly and his Assistants from the time of your first appointments had orders from the Honourable the President to furnish you, on demand, with an account of the grain then at market for sale; and as to the expected imports between that period and the month of September, no certain judgment could be formed.

When the Honourable the President and Council were pleased to appoint you to the entire management and regulations of the sales of grain, it was only intended that you should have the appointment of convenient public places for the sale thereof, and the limitations of the quantity to be daily

expended; but they did not imagine their orders could justifiably imply the idea of delegating so unjustifiable an authority to you as the compulsion of dealers in grain to appear before you, or the searching of houses.

The Board direct me to assure you that every means shall be exerted by them to encourage the importation of grain, but they are much concerned to be informed; you are of opinion the most moderate allowance for daily consumption is 29 or 30 garce of Paddy or 15 garce of Rice, nor do they conceive that this calculation is proved to be just by near double that quantity having been daily expended in February last. There was then a prospect of receiving very considerable supplies as usual from the southward, and it could not be foreseen that the enemy would ravage the Tanjore country, Nagore, and Karrikal, &c., which has likewise obliged us to supply the Army at Cuddalore. For these reasons, such pointed restrictions were not so necessary at that time as they now are. They are, therefore, of opinion it will be necessary for the present to limit the sales to about 2½ garce of Rice and 10 garce of Paddy per diem. The Board are sensible this measure will be attended with inconveniences, and they fear will not prove sufficient for daily consumption; but there appears to them no remedy, and this regulation may force many to leave the settlement who can procure subsistence elsewhere. You will receive enclosed, for your information, the daily expenditure of grain from the 1st to the 20th ultimo, the day on which you were desired to undertake the superintendence thereof.

The Board think the present state of grain does not admit of His Highness the Nabob's dependants and servants, amounting to 7,380 people, being fully supplied daily, and therefore they must purchase in the bazaar in common with other inhabitants.

Letter from Grain Committee, to Government, dated 7th June 1781.

We have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 4th instant, and are sorry to find that you are not satisfied with our reasons for delaying to regulate the quantity of grain to be daily expended until we knew the amount of the stock on hand, which information was, in our humble opinion, indispensably necessary to enable us to enter upon the business. The only reason which you are pleased to give for not admitting of the necessity of this delay is, that the Grain Conicopoly and his Assistants from the time of our appointment had orders from the Honourable the President to furnish us, on demand, with an account of the grain then at market for sale. In reply to this, we must beg leave to repeat that it was to your Honour, &c., that we applied for the necessary informations, and that by your orders we were referred to the President from whom the first information we obtained was on Saturday evening the 26th ultimo, and no order respecting the Conicopolies, previous to your letter of the 27th, was ever communicated to us.

Having, since our last address to you, more narrowly inspected the account sales of grain in February and March last, we humbly conceive that the extraordinary quantity then sold is alone sufficient to authorize the suspicion of large quantities being withheld from market.

The grain sold in these two months is as follows:—

Rice	1,040 Garce.
Paddy	1,036 ,,
Natcheny	110 ,,

This taken at the usual computation, is equal to 3,281 garce of Paddy. Supposing the sales at that time had been restricted to 30 garce per diem, this quantity would yield a surplus of 1,511 garce, which is sufficient for fifty days' consumption. But allowing even as your Honor, &c., have alleged that there was no necessity for so pointed a restriction at that time, still the sales so much exceed what we think necessary for the consumption as to give too much ground to believe that a great quantity still remains unaccounted for. We therefore take the liberty of recommending that

some effectual measures be adopted by you to obtain a particular state of the grain now in the hands of individuals, that you may cause such part of it to be brought to market as the public exigencies require.

The opinion which we gave to your Honour, &c., that the quantity of grain requisite for daily consumption is not less than 29 or 30 garce of Paddy or 15 garce of Rice, was founded upon particular inquiry, and confirmed by the experience we have had since the charge of distributing the daily supply was committed to us. The accounts you have thought proper to send us of the daily expenditure of grain from the 1st to the 20th ultimo, which, at an average, is equal to 24 garce of Paddy per day, does not prove that this allowance was sufficient; on the contrary, the clamours of the poor people, and the general complaints of distress during that period, afford grounds for a very different conclusion.

You have been pleased, upon the representations contained in our letter of the 2nd instant, to give it as your opinion, "that it will be necessary for the present to limit the sales to 2½ garce of "Rice and 10 garce of Paddy per diem;" this quantity will not feed more than 48,000 people, allowing half a measure of Rice to each person, our calculation allowed for double that number, which upon the most moderate computation, falls short of the real number of inhabitants. We cannot reconcile so essential a difference to our own judgment, nor can we take upon ourselves to decide in a case of such importance.

Your Honour, &c., by combining the information we have given you with our own knowledge of the supplies of grain to be expected before the month of September, are certainly much better qualified to form an opinion upon this subject, than we possibly can be; and where the lives of so many thousands are concerned, the decision must rest entirely with the Government.

The purposes for which you acquaint us we were nominated, are, we conceive, fully completed; the Governor upon our recommendation has caused a new Banksall to be erected, which, with the former one, will, we flatter ourselves, sufficiently facilitate the daily retail, and your Honour, &c., from the materials laid before you, have determined upon the restriction to be imposed on the future sales. These two points being effected, we do not see any further end that can be answered by our appointment, and we earnestly request, therefore, that you will be pleased to relieve us from it. Before we conclude this letter, we beg leave to recommend that the price of Paddy which is now sold at 44½ Pagodas per garce be raised to 50 Pagodas per garce on such as may be imported from this time, and that public notice of this increase be given as an encouragement to the importation.

Resolution thereon.—The Board taking into consideration the above letter, it is resolved that public advertisements be immediately issued, requiring of every person who may be possessed of any quantity of Paddy, Rice, or other grain, to deliver in an account of it to the Committee, who are to be acquainted that if they can discover that due obedience is not paid to this requisition, proper measures will then be taken by Government to enforce compliance with their orders.

As a further prevention of every species of monopoly, it is further resolved to authorize the Honourable the President to insist that the Banyans, &c., who deal in grain shall enter into Penalty Bonds not to withhold any part of what they may be possessed of from the public supply of the Settlement.

The Board cannot yet dispense with the services of the Committee, as they do not conceive the purpose for which they were appointed is fully completed. The quantity of grain the Board had in a former letter mentioned to be necessary for daily consumption was only meant to be recommended to the Committee, but the Board by no means wished it should be construed into a final regulation; on the contrary, it was their intention in this instance, as well as on every other occasion, that the final determination of all points relative to the distribution of grain should rest with the Committee. The Board approve of their recommendation of the increase on the price of rice, and are of opinion it should take place from this day.

APPENDIX III.

Letter from Grain Committee, to Government, dated 6th July 1781.

We have the honour to acquaint you that on the 20th May last we were appointed by the late President and Council a Committee for "superintending the daily distribution of grain in such "manner that the stock on hand might not all be expended before the month of September next, "when further supplies were expected."

Our first object on receiving this trust was to ascertain the exact quantity of grain at market, and this we found, after minute investigation, to be no more than sufficient to supply the inhabitants till the end of June. We made our report accordingly, in a letter to the Honourable Board of the 2nd June, and were in consequence instructed by them to impose further restrictions on the sales, than had been before established. By these means the quantity has lasted somewhat longer, though the distress of the inhabitants from the insufficiency of the supplies has been very great.

We now take the liberty of informing your Lordship and Council that the stock remaining for sale will suffice only for two days. It is true that the Merchants who have hitherto furnished the market are possessed of a small quantity, but they absolutely insist on retaining this for their own use, and indeed these people having in general conformed to the limitations prescribed to them by the Committee, we did not think it reasonable to reject their claim, more especially as the quantity which they reserve could not supply, at the utmost, above three or four days consumption.

The late President and Council were pleased to publish an advertisement requiring all persons who might be possessed of grain, immediately to give in an account of it to us; this was done, on the supposition that quantities of grain might be secreted; but we are sorry to observe that it has not produced the desired effect of increasing the stock for market. We are still however of opinion, that there is a good deal of grain concealed in the Black Town; but by the best information we can obtain, it is divided among a great number of people, and we conceive it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to bring it forth by any other method than that of allowing the possessors to sell it, in whatever manner they choose, and without restriction as to price. After all, this mode of supply is, in its nature, so uncertain, and must at any rate prove so very inadequate to the wants of the people, that we apprehend it will be necessary for your Lordship and Council to supply the bazaars with from 4 to 500 bags of Rice daily, until the present scarcity is removed.

The intention of our appointment having been to ascertain the quantity of grain in the hands of private merchants, and to regulate the sales until that quantity were expended, we humbly hope that as these points are now accomplished, your Lordship and Council will be pleased to relieve us from any further charge, that we may attend to the duties of our respective employs.

Mr. Moubray, the Accountant, has in particular represented in his letter to the Honorable Board, of 15th ultimo, the impossibility of preparing the accounts of his office for the next dispatch, if his time be longer engaged in the business of the Committee.

APPENDIX III.

Letter from the Committee of Charity for the relief of the poor, to Government, dated January 1782.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

At a special Vestry held yesterday for the purpose of carrying into execution the late laudable subscriptions for the relief of the poor distressed inhabitants of these parts, the community assembled requested a set of gentlemen (of whom we are a part) to take the guidance of the above Charity, and further desired that as the fund here being only about eight hundred Pagodas monthly, was inadequate to the general benefit they have in view; that your Lordship, &c., should be requested to recommend to the Governor General and Council at Bengal, the setting on foot a subscription there, which will afford the humane an opportunity of contributing towards the preservation of the

lives of thousands, who must inevitably perish without their charitable assistance. It is with reluctance, my Lord and Gentlemen, that we are under the necessity of calling upon you for your assistance in this instance, but the multitude reduced to misery and absolute want by the invasion of so cruel an enemy, and the inability of this Settlement from their own immediate sufferings to support them, will, we hope, plead our excuse. We submit to the consideration of your Lordship, &c., whether it may not be proper to request of the Government at Bengal to purchase Rice with the money subscribed, and forward it to Madras; the Governor General and Council may perhaps grant such indulgences to the Commanders who export it as may well enable them to bring it at a low freight.

The Committee are using every means in their power for the relief of the poor, but the dying objects daily met with in the streets require shelter as well as support; they therefore hope that Government will afford assistance from the Company's stores such as Palmyras, &c., which cannot otherwise be procured, to enable them to erect a few sheds to cover these miserable wretches from the excessive heat of the sun, as the Chief Engineer shall certify may be spared from the stores, and they pledge themselves that they shall be forthcoming, when called upon for that purpose. They flatter themselves there is nothing further required, than the daily objects that occur to every Member of the Board to induce them to afford the assistance now desired, which will be attended with the greatest benefit to the Company by the preservation of a number of lives for the tillage of the land, when the expulsion of the enemy (from the present exertions of Government) shall be attained.

RESOLUTION THEREON.—The Board are concerned that the state of the stores will not at present admit of our furnishing the Palmyras, &c., applied for in the above letter, but it is agreed to recommend the application for assistance from Bengal made by the persons chosen to conduct the Charity for the relief of distressed native inhabitants to the particular attention of the Governor General and Council.

Letter from the Committee of Charity for the relief of the poor, to Government, dated September 1782.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

We beg leave to acquaint your Lordship and Council that an extraordinary Meeting of the Committee, for the relief of the poor, was held this day to deliberate on the best scheme for sending these miserable objects from this Settlement, as the Committee have found it utterly impracticable to procure subsistence for them any longer.

The only feasible mode which has occurred to the Committee, for effecting this, is to have these people sent over land in different divisions of 1,000 each to Masulipatam, and therefore they have requested of us to make application to your Lordship and Council for letters to the Commandant at Pulicat, for a small guard to escort them to Nellore, and for a letter to the Commandant of that place for similar aid, to Masulipatam, where they hope your Lordship and Council will be pleased to send your orders for their being maintained in such manner as you may judge expedient.

The Committee have further requested that we will represent to your Lordship and Council the necessity there is, for your ordering your Secretary to write letters to the Renters and Amildars in the countries through which these poor people pass, to afford them every assistance, and to favour them in their passage over the different ferrys on their way; also that the Commandants of Pulicat and Nellore be directed to have a state made of their condition on their arrival at those places, and that they be furnished with whatever may be absolutely necessary for their proceeding to Masulipatam.

We trust that the urgency of this case which admits of no delay, will be our best apology for their troubling you at a time when we are sensible you are constantly employed in affairs of importance, and for earnestly requesting that the necessary orders may be issued speedily.

APPENDIX V.

RESOLUTION THEREON.—The Board approving of the plan proposed in the above letter for sending away the poor natives to the northward, resolved that the different subordinates be written to acquainting them with our intention, and directing them to apply to the several Zemindars to assign places of settlement for the poor in the villages of their districts, with orders that they be subsisted at the Company's expenses as economically as possible until they shall be able to gain a livelihood by their bodily labour.

APPENDIX IV.

Notice is hereby given, that for the prevention of further public distress and for the better distribution of the provisions coming to this Settlement, the Right Honorable the President and Council have resolved to take the management of all the supplies into their own hands for a certain period, and for the more fully effecting this purpose upon just and equitable principles they have formed the following determinations :—

1*st*.—The Government engage to pay for all good merchantable rice imported here to the 31st March next, after the rate of 150 Star Pagodas per Garce, and if it should happen that the state of the Treasury will not admit of ready money to be paid. Bills of Exchange on the Honorable the Governor General and Council at 385 Arcot Rupees per 100 Star Pagodas for the amount of the purchase money will be granted for such rice as is imported from Bengal, and Bills of Exchange at 30 days' sight on the subordinates nearest to the port from which the vessels were cleared or belong to, for such rice as is imported from the Northern Circars or from the Nellore and Ongole Districts.

2*nd*.—This Government engage to pay for all kinds of grain and small grains imported from the Northern Circars or from the Nellore and Ongole Districts until the 25th December next, 130 Star Pagodas per Garce except for Jonnah and Natcheny, which are to be at Star Pagodas 80 per Garce, and Paddy at 75 Star Pagodas per Garce, and when money is not paid for it at the Presidency, Bills of Exchange at 30 days' sight for the amount of the purchase are to be granted on the subordinate Settlement nearest to the port, from which the vessels were cleared or to which they belong.

3*rd*.—All private merchants having grain and provisions in the roads before this day shall be allowed to import one half of the quantity and to deliver it to the order of Mr. James Simpson, Clerk to the Grain Committee, to be sold and distributed under their direction in such manner and proportion as the Committee may deem expedient for the public service. The other half to be delivered to Government on the terms herein above specified.

Fort Saint George, 5th October 1782.

By Order of the Right Honorable the President and Council.

APPENDIX V.

To

THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD MACARTNEY, K. B.,
President and Governor in Council of
Fort Saint George.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

We the inhabitants of the Town of Madraspatam having assembled together under your permission, and having come to the resolution of submitting, sundry matters to the consideration of Government, which, we are of opinion may lead to the public relief, in this time of extreme distress

and imminent danger, have the honor herewith, to enclose you a paper containing the general propositions that have occurred to us, and which we trust, will meet your candid and favorable attention.

We have the honor to be,

With respect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your devoted and very obedient humble servants,

MADRAS,
Town Hall,
11*th October* 1782.

Edward Garrow, *Chairman.*
A. Brodie.
Geo. Ramsay.
Thos. Graham.
Robt. Storey.
Benjn. Roebuck.
Thos. Cockburn.
J. Popham.
J. Milford.
Benjn. Torin.
J. Rowley.
John Douglas.
Jn. Isac Barwick.
Nat. Fitzhugh.
James Amos.
Richard Dillon.
Thomas Weston.
Hugh Maxwell.
W. E. Ogilvie.
Chas. Bromley.
A. T. Franck.
F. Campbell.
R. Kimbant.
T. C. Bartholmy.
W. Keating, Captain.
J. Sandan.
Robert Woolf.
Henry Davies.
J. Kennaway.
J. Richardson.
J. Abercrombie.
Wm. Hewifh.
N. E. Kindersley.
S. Sultaun.
Set Aviat.
Miguel Toemmas.
Aganali.
W. J. Rutter.
A. Palmer.
J. Balfour.
Robt. Clerk.
G. W. Hospard.
Philip Stowey.
Will. Carlile.
Oliver Colt.
Charles Binny.
Moses deCastor.
John Wynch.
J. Du Pre Porcher.
Paul Benfield.
William Balfour.
Pellings deFries.
James Taylor.
Theod. V. Tanor.
Geo. Webster.
John Snow.
Geo. Savage.
Hall Plumer.
James Patch.
George Moubray.
Richard Dighton.
H. Du Puz.
Hugh Vaughan.
George Powney.
H. Read Lear.
James Johnson.
F. L. Kelly.
Adam Turnbull.
C. Irvin.
Talus Briggs.
Richd. Legge Willis.
J. W. Call.
Thos. Jones.
Charles A. White.
Thomas Kingwate.
W. G. Wager.
Joseph Garrow.
Thomas Davies.
Ge. French.
Edward Ellis.
W. Evans.
B. Gulivan.
John Donnell.
W. H. Torriano.

The calamities and distress of this Settlement, that are so severely felt by every individual, have induced the inhabitants to assemble together, to reflect on their situation to consider their sufferings and to represent the result of their deliberations and the means of remedy and assistance which occur to them with a desire to render public service.

The principal distresses that we feel and the consequences of which we so seriously apprehend, are of two kinds.

The want of grain and provisions, and the prospect of a superior force of the enemy. We conceive, that the causes of the want of grain have arisen, and will continue to operate from the restrictions formerly imposed and now resumed on the importation, from the great delay in landing

it, the seizure of it by Government and the paying for what has been received by them in a mode highly disadvantageous to the owners; and respecting immediate supply, the threatened departure of the British Squadron from the seizure by Military force of the country small Craft, and forcing them into a different employ than their intended importation of grain.

We would propose, that the following measures be taken in alleviation of those distresses.

That public declarations be issued by Government that no force will be used to compel the owners of Vessels to alter their destinations. But that the objects of Government to procure freight for other purposes than the importation of grain, be attained only by giving valuable consideration, so as to induce the proprietors of Vessels to prefer that service.

2ndly. That to quiet the alarms of the Traders, it be recommended to Government to re-consider the order of the fifth instant, respecting grain which is known to have operated in some degree as a prohibition to the importation of grain, has actually occasioned a countermanding of considerable quantities of grain that has been destined for this port; and even to have caused many proprietors of Vessels now in the roads to resolve to leave this port with their cargoes, should this order not be revoked.

3rdly. That to encourage the importation of grain at this Settlement, and the sale of it to the Company, public notice be given that the owners of all grain, sold to the Company, shall have it in their option to receive the amount sales, either in Bills on England, at the declared public exchange, or on Calcutta, at the current exchange of merchants as they may choose. And that native merchants or others, may be allowed Bills at the current exchange of merchants, in such Northern Settlements as may be nearest to the ports from whence their Vessels are laden, if they prefer such mode to either of the others. And that as they are often different owners for the same cargo, each proprietor may choose how he will be paid according to his share.

4thly. That the price of grain be raised for all that may be imported after this day. The present restrictive price is not equal to what every consumer will give for grain, wherever he can find it to be sold, and all sorts of embezzlements and evasion, or daily committed here, and cannot be prevented under the present extreme difficulties and distress, and during the present price. That on these accounts, and to encourage Vessels to wait here for landing their cargoes to come here under every risk, and willingly to give up their grain to the public, the price, for all rice landed between the present day and the 25th of this month, be raised by authority to 200 Pagodas per Garce. That after the 25th of this month and from that time to the 25th of December next, the price of rice for all that, shall be imported during that time be raised to 300 Pagodas for Garce. and that after the twenty-fifth day of December to the first day of March following, (lest it have become a measure of Government to lay an embargo on Vessels in Calcutta and the Northern Settlements during that period), it may be still necessary to give the highest price for all grain imported by land carriage, in order to enable adventurers to bring it from the greatest distance: and that therefore in the event of an embargo, the price of 300 Pagodas per Garce be given for all rice that may be brought by land during that period. It is saleable at a higher rate even then the proposed advanced prices at the neutral and the enemy's ports on the Coast, and of course a voluntary importation by the natives is not to be expected under the present restrictions. That the prices of all other sorts of grain shall be proportionably increased, during the several periods above-mentioned, and that Government shall give public notification to be transmitted also to the out Settlements and Bengal with the utmost expedition, that they are ready to purchase all grain according to the terms above-mentioned, and the mode of payment specified in the 3rd Article.

5thly. That all purchases of grain, for account of Government, should be made by private contract and without the interference of public authority or requisition.

6thly. That such persons as may not be willing to sell there grain to the Company, shall be under restriction to allow persons appointed by the Government to superintend the sale of their grain; and that the owners be permitted only to dispose daily of such quantity as shall be in the propor-

tion that their importation may bear to the General Stock, and the General Expenditure, the Government limitting the gross quantity of grain that shall be daily disposed of from the General Stock. Every owner receiving the amount sales of his grain without impediment or interference.

7*thly.* That letters be written from the Government to all the subordinate Settlements, calling upon and enjoining the Chiefs and Servants of the Company by every tie of duty and allegiance to make themselves instantly acquainted of all vessels of every kind and the owners of such that may be within the limits of their respective Districts and to endeavour without the appearance of force, or the exercise of authority, but by every conciliating means and exertion to enter into engagements with them to dispatch their Vessels immediately, through the storing season with grain for this place, under the assurances of their receiving the prices herein before recommended to give the owners every possible assistance and support in procuring grain, tackle and people ; and that they should be acquainted that their Vessels on arrival here, will receive daily their just proportion of the boats of this port, so that no unnecessary delays or detentions will be suffered.

8*thly.* That a public register be kept of the names and manifests of the cargoes of all ships in the roads, also a public register of the boats. That entries be made of the daily distribution of the boats belonging to the port, and the quantity of grain landed, and from what Vessels respectively, and that a Committee be appointed for the superintendence of all business dependant on the boats, their distribution and the landing of the grain. And that all traders and others concerned may have free inspection of such registers, for their satisfaction and encouragement.

9*thly.* That all possible means be taken to bring in grain from Nellore and the nearest countiers by land, which we trust may be done even to a considerable amount with exertions and the employment of some of the Company's servants : and that any supplies, the situation of the Army may require, be an early attention in the same quarter.

10*thly.* That an Agent be forthwith sent to Bengal to set forth to the Government General, as well what may be represented in writing from hence, as more particular matters than can be in that manner conveyed, concerning the distresses, wants and danger, to which this Settlement is a present exposed : praying their assistance, and to be ready on the spot to explain to them all matters and things of which the Government General may wish to be acquainted, respecting local information; and to reiterate to them any representations made from this Government, respecting the urgent wants of this Settlement, and to be active in any thing he may have in charge, should it be agreeable to the Government General, to employ him in forwarding supplies.

11*thly.* That the poor, and indeed all those inhabitants, who are not provided with subsistence for themselves, and who are not absolutely requisite, in the present situation of the Settlement, be immediately sent into the Northern Countries, for as here are no provisions for them, they necessarily must perish, if they remain here, and would probably occasion some contagious distemper, that might destroy that part of the inhabitants, which may otherwise have a chance of being preserved. That, in order to effect their removal in the mildest, and easiest manner possible, publication be immediately made, that all the inferior class of people, except such as belong to the Public Departments, or that are servants to private families, and are necessarily to reside here, shall depart by a certain early day, when they will be served with rice at the gates to carry them to Pulicat, and at that place, with a further quantity, to carry them into the Northern Countries, where they may possibly get employment and subsistance : and that if the order be not complied with, Government will be under the necessity of enforcing it : that it be further required of all the principal native inhabitants, to reduce their families to the number, for which they have grain in their immediate possession, to maintain for four months at least, and must send the remainder to the Northward ; as they are not to expect any supplies from the Public Stock of this Settlement ; and to recommend especially to all those who have not concerns or business, indispensably require their residing here, early to retire from Madras, lest any unfavorable change of circumstances, should oblige Government to require their departure, at a time more inconvenient to themselves. Every feeling of humanity urges the most prompt and rigid execution of this measure.

12*thly*. That in order to insure and cover our supplies upon which our existence depends, an address be presented to the Admiral, requesting him to remain in sight of this port, at least till the 25th instant, or to the last hour it can possibly be done with safety to the Squadron : and that such address be expressive of the hope of his speedy return, in force to this Coast.

On the subject of the advanced price proposed for grain imported at the different periods, we have not failed to take into our consideration all the arguments that suggested themselves to us, for keeping the prices of grain at the rates at which the lower classes of the people, would be enabled to maintain themselves, in a flourishing State or Country, this would probably be a consideration superseding every other, where it could be enforced. But, under the present distresses, our object is to provide against the miseries of famine and the efforts of our powerful enemies. When we are reduced to the necessity of discharging from the Settlement almost all the inhabitants that are not necessary to the defence of the country ; when we find that grain is sold even above the highest rates we have suggested at the ports of our enemies, and the neutral powers; when at present, the utmost vigilance of Government has not been effectual in any degree, to prevent its being clandestinely sold, even at much higher rates in this Settlement ; when probable no other mode could be devised to rouse the natives independent of the Service of the Company, to those exertions which are so essential to our relief, and to stimulate the merchants and traders to embark their property and risk their lives through the dangers of the monsoon ; when we sensibly feel, that the most zealous exertions of all, after that season is over, would be ineffectual to insure our existence considering the state of our present stock, and that the ships of the enemy, will doubtless block up the port, the moment the weather will permit their being at sea, and that probably they may take some risk in order to intercept the supplies we may endeavour to obtain even during the monsoon ; under these circumstances, our situation seems to render every exertion and endeavour essentially necessary to any hope of safety ; and in that view to warrant encouragement in the most extensive manner, to every enterprise likely to produce supplies : and we are fully convinced that less encouragement would not be a sufficient inducement to adventurers to exert themselves and risk their lives and property in the endeavour to bring in those supplies of grain.

APPENDIX VI.

NOTIFICATION.

The Right Honorable the President and Council having provided a very large stock of grain, at an immense expense, to supply the public emergencies of this Settlement, at that time universally judged proper to guard against, but the Peace lately concluded between the European Powers then at War rendering it unnecessary to keep so large a quantity of grain in store, notice is hereby given that the Honorable Company's rice on hand will be issued and sold by retail in the bazaars at the present market-price of Star Pagodas 133⅓ per Madras Garce, or three Mercalls per Star Pagoda ; and as Government has suffered a vast loss by providing for the eventual distresses of the inhabitants, and is therefore undoubtedly entitled to the primary relief from the incumbrance entailed by engagements intended for the public benefit, notice is likewise given that the Government has assumed to itself the exclusive priyilege of selling rice by retail until further orders, and has accordingly commanded all boutiques, for the sale by retail of rice belonging to individuals, to be shut up for the present.

The 29th July 1783.

APPENDIX VII.

Letter to Board of Revenue, dated 16th March 1799.

We have received your letters of the 26th ultimo, 1st, 4th, and 8th instant, with their respective enclosures.

Upon a review of the reports made to you relative to the quantities of grain which can be collected in the Northern Circars, we are of opinion that it will be advisable to retain in the hands of the Collector such part of it only as may now actually belong to the Company, or may be the produce of Aumany lands; but that it is inexpedient to purchase any quantity from the Zemindars or renters on the public account, or to interfere in any shape with the ordinary course of dealing in grain throughout the Circars.

For the grain which appears to be collected at Cassimcotah we shall endeavour to provide tonnage as occasions may offer, and we desire that the Collectors in the Districts of Masulipatam and Vizagapatam, who may have public grain on hand, will continue to avail themselves of all opportunities which may occur, of exporting it to the Presidency.

In regard to the offer of Mr. Lawson, we should think his proposal of purchasing the Company's grain far more eligible, than the exportation of it on their account by the Collectors, provided the security he may offer for the performance of his engagements shall, upon examination, be found unexceptionable; but unless the security is satisfactory, such an agreement may prove at least nugatory.

If the Collector at Masulipatam should be able to procure freight for the grain in store at that place, we desire that he may be authorized to do so, and to replace any quantity which may be issued from the stores for exportation to the Presidency; and we shall furnish the Storekeeper with directions for this purpose.

We shall hereafter furnish you with our determination upon the reports of the Collector at Ganjam, relative to the settlement of his district for the Fusly 1207.

We confirm the Jummahbundy, which you have recommended for the province of Dindigul, and shall pay every attention to the future report of the Collector upon the remissions, which the present drought may render it advisable to grant. Meanwhile, we desire that Mr. Hurdis may be instructed to use his discretion in endeavouring to relieve the inhabitants by the purchase of grain on the public account for the purpose of retail sale to the people; but if the scarcity should be so great as to require the active interference of the Circar, it will be expedient that he should endeavour to lower the price of grain by disposing of that which he may have on hand, or may hereafter purchase, at prices lower than may amount to a full reimbursement to the Company.

APPENDIX VIII.

Letter from the Board of Revenue to Government, dated 29th November 1806.

1. Having lately received, from several of the Collectors, representations upon the subject of the high price of grain, and an apprehended scarcity of that article, in consequence of the general failure of the usual periodical rains throughout the Peninsula, and being earnestly solicitous of contributing by every means in our power to avert or alleviate the inconveniences incident to these distressing visitations of Divine Providence; the subject has engaged our most serious consideration.

2. Convinced by observation and experience of the impolicy of the measures usually resorted to on the occurrence of the calamity of dearth, or famine; and that any restrictions on the freedom of the grain market, whether by enforcing the sale, limiting the price, or other direct interference with the speculations of private grain dealers, are more calculated to aggravate, than to diminish the sufferings of the people. We have deemed it advisable to submit our sentiments generally to your Lordship in Council, on this important subject.

3. The inconveniences of a scarcity of grain, though not always capable of being removed may, by proper precautions, be considerably alleviated.

4. In seasons of dearth, it is for the benefit of the people that the general consumption should be regulated with exact reference to the general stock, and as it is for the interest of the grain dealer to adapt his price in a just ratio to the existing necessity or demand, so he procures the best information on this point, and that information renders him the best judge; if he sell too high, he discourages consumption, makes the people frugal, and may ultimately disappoint himself, if too low, he needlessly foregoes a possible profit may induce an improvident expenditure, and to the calamity of a dearth may superadd the miseries of a famine, but this last circumstance is not likely to happen, as it is not likely he should so much disregard his individual interest. The grain dealer without contemplating the interest of the people, necessarily provides for it, in providing for his own. For, the people, by feeling the inconveniences of scarcity by his means, sooner perhaps than they otherwise would, feel them ultimately less severely than they otherwise might, it is for their benefit, that these inconveniences be divided, that they be felt gradually, and not suddenly, this operation can be performed by none so exactly as by the grain dealer, for, as no other person can have either the same interest, the same knowledge or the same abilities duly to perform it, so it is the best policy that the grain market be left entirely to him, that is, that it be left entirely free.

5. In some instances the expediency of imposing an embargo on the export of grain, has been urged with great earnestness on our notice, this is an alternative that should be resorted to, with extreme caution, it is a restriction on natural liberty; and in those Districts where proprietary right in the lands, has been established, is an infraction of public justice, it is forbidden indeed by the standing orders of Government, and without special sanction cannot be adopted, on occasions of dearth it should seem, on general principles, to be no less unnecessary than unwise. It is certain that the scarcity of any commodity is usually attended with a proportionate increase of price, and, as in all places the home market is the nearest and most convenient, so in times of scarcity, it must of course be the most lucrative and eligible; thus whilst on the one hand there can be little room for apprehending any considerable exportation from a District in which an advantageous market is to be found for its produce; so on the other, if that produce be deficient, the allurement of an enhanced price will seldom fail to induce adventurers thither, with the surplus produce of other provinces.

Collector of Ganjam.

6. Whenever the Officers of Government, influenced by a humane desire of obviating the inconveniences of scarcity, imprudently direct that private grain be sold in the public market at a fixed price, or injudiciously send grain themselves into the market for that purpose; they either prevent dealers from bringing their grain thither, which sometimes increases the danger of a famine; or they encourage the people to consume it so fast, as must necessarily, in the end, produce such a calamity, the unrestrained freedom of the grain market, is at the same time the best preventative of famine and the best palliative of dearth.

7. We have lately addressed a Circular letter to the Collectors, inculcating these sentiments: we have informed them in reply to their suggestions for adopting extraordinary means of relief, that it is only in cases of extreme exigency that the interference of Government, should be exerted, and exhorted them not to attempt any interference with the grain market; but, in the event of such cases occurring to report them for our information.

Dated 24th in Dy. Consultation 27th November 1806.

8. In the cases to which we allude it is our opinion that the interposition of Government, when necessary to succour the distresses of the poor, should be by aids of money to enable dealers to introduce supplies of edible grain, rather than by any direct interference of their own Officers with the public market.

9. We are disposed to believe that your Lordship in Council will entirely concur with us, in the good policy and propriety of these orders, and we cannot doubt, that due attention will be paid to them by our subordinate Officers: but unless an unanimity of sentiment pervade every depart-

ment of the service, and the co-operation of all the Executive Officers of Government be exerted, to give them efficacy ; the measure must necessarily fail, and the same evils inevitably recur.

10. The chief obstacle which occurs to us as opposing the systematic operation of this arrangement is, the difficulty of providing supplies of grain, on such exigencies, for the use of the troops.

From Mr. Cazalett,
Dated 26th Nov. } in Dy. Con. 1st December.
Do. 29th do. }

11. With reference to this point we enclose several letters received from the Collector of Zillah Chingleput, relative to the inconvenience experienced by the troops at Trippasore.

12. We have understood that it is proposed to establish a Commissariat Department for this purpose If we may be permitted to offer an opinion unsolicited, on this proposition ; we would beg leave to suggest a practicable mode of obviating the difficulties in question applicable to troops, when stationary more prompt, more economical, and we imagine, equally if not more efficient, than that of Commissaries.

Star Pagodas 70, or thereabout.

13. We believe it is the practice of the service, that when the price of grain exceeds a certain sum per Madras garce, the excess necessary to procure a supply for the troops, is defrayed by the Company.

14. We would propose that, on such occasions the respective Collectors in Districts where troops are stationed should be authorized to require, from the Commanding Officers of Corps or Detachments, abstracts of the quantity of grain necessary for the Troops, for any given time.

15. That on these abstracts being furnished, Collectors should invite *sealed proposals* of supply, from the several Zemindars or grain dealers, of their Districts ; to be given in, on a certain day, specifying the terms on which they would consent to furnish the supply.

16. That those proposals should be opened at the fixed time, impartially examined, and the most eligible tender accepted.

17. That on the delivery of the grain, the surplus price should be paid, as usual, by the Company, and the immediate cash be furnished by the Collector.

18. In this manner the object of the Zemindar or grain dealer, whose only wish in withholding his grain, is to get a good price for it would be immediately answered ; the supply of the troops be secured; the freedom of the market, and consequent moderation of price be best maintained.

19. A Commissariat Department would require that such Officers, with suitable salaries, should be appointed and stationed, all over the country, thereby incurring a vast expense.

20. The Collectors with their own establishments, each in his particular district could find little additional trouble in managing this detail, and less difficulty in negotiating the transaction, with their own Zemindars than Commissaries, besides, they possess greater facilities of storing supplies, preventing waste, and disposing of surplus stock.

21. The examples of the Collectors of Canara and the Ceded Districts, prove the practicability and facility of this scheme, and the superior economy of it precludes remark.

22. But, this is an abstract question, unconnected with the main object of this address, which relates merely to the impending sufferings of the people from a scarcity of alimentary grain, and the most likely means of diminishing or averting them, by maintaining, inviolate the liberty of the market.

23. For this purpose, we would beg leave strenuously to recommend, that, to whomsoever the province of supply be attached, the freedom of the grain trade be strictly enjoined and, if your Lordship in Council coincide in the sentiments expressed in this letter, that orders analogous to them be issued to all the Officers of Government, to whom they may be applicable.

Letter from Government to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th December 1806.

1. I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, and to acquaint you that His Lordship in Council considers your observations on the subject of grain to be highly judicious and proper, as His Lordship is satisfied that it is in all general cases advisable to abstain from any interference with the ordinary operation of the public market.

2. His Lordship in Council had previously received a letter from the Military Board, stating the measures which they had deemed it proper to take for the purpose of ensuring the supply of grain to the Troops in the present season; but as His Lordship considers the mode of supply by sealed proposals in the way which you have recommended to be the most advantageous, it has been resolved to adopt it, in preference to that mentioned in the letter of the Military Board.

3. I accordingly enclose for your information and guidance a copy of that letter, with a copy of the reply which has been despatched to the Military Board, and am directed to desire that orders may be issued to the Collectors with the least possible delay, for inviting proposals for the supply of grain at the stations, and to the extent mentioned in the accompanying statement, with the exception of Arcot and Vellore, to which places a supply of grain will be sent from the Presidency.

From the Military Board, 24th November 1806.
To do. do. 15th December 1806.

4. His Lordship in Council desires that the grain when received may be transferred to the charge of the Garrison Store-keepers, or to that of persons acting under their orders; and in order to expedite the objects of the intended arrangement it will be proper that the Collectors should be instructed generally to correspond with the Garrison Store-keepers or with the Commanding Officers of stations, and to attend to any suggestions which they may receive regarding the best mode of facilitating the intentions of His Lordship in Council.

APPENDIX IX.

Letter from the Board of Revenue to Government, dated 8th December 1806.

1. By the enclosed letter which we have the honor to submit to your Lordship from the Principal Collector in the Southern Division of Arcot, it appears that he is apprehensive of very serious consequences, resulting from the general failure of the crops throughout that province.

From Mr. Ravenshaw, dated 28th November, in Consultation, 4th December.

2. Adhering to the sentiments which we had the honor of stating in our letter to your Lordship, under date the 29th ultimo, we entertain little doubt, that this province will receive such assistance from other quarters as will avert all danger of famine, but as the price of grain will unquestionably be enhanced, it becomes a consideration to afford to the poorer class of inhabitants the means as far as practicable of providing themselves with a subsistence, and thus restraining emigration, which must otherwise necessarily ensue.

3. With this view, Mr. Ravenshaw proposes that the people be employed in repairing the roads and tanks of the District, which he represents to be generally in a ruinous state, and recommends that they receive for their labor in lieu of pay, a sufficiency of grain to support them.

4. Respecting the expediency of furnishing the people with employment in a season of dearth, no question can arise, but provided they have employment, it does not appear to us to be of material consequence, whether their wages be paid in money or in grain, for with money, we apprehend that grain will always be procurable. Should your Lordship, however, be of opinion that payment in grain, either wholly or in part would be the preferable mode, we are of opinion that the least exceptionable means of providing the requisite supply are offered by the proposition contained in our letter abovementioned.

5. We take this occasion of submitting to your Lordship, a letter from the Collector, in Zillah Chingleput, with an estimate for the repair of the high Western Road, between Madras and Poonamallee, amounting to Star Pagodas 2,526-40-32, including the cost of twenty-six small bridges over the nullahs, and water courses that traverse the road.

From Mr. Cazalett, dated 20th, in Cons., 27th November.

6. We, also submit a letter from the Principal Collector in Tanjore and Trichinopoly, with an estimate furnished by the Superintendent of tank repairs, for constructing a new road between Veshrampetty and Coiladdy, on the route from Madras to Trichinopoly, the amount of this estimate is Star Pagodas 589-36.

From Mr. Wallce dated 26th November, in Consultation, 4th December.

7. Both these works are represented to be highly necessary, and their execution during the present season presents the additional advantage, however, confined, of affording to some of the most indigent of the people, the means of procuring a livelihood.

8. If it suited the finances of Government, to extend to every District in which similar repairs may be needful, this mode of diminishing the pressure of want in the present severe season it would be humanity most judiciously applied, the poor would benefit from the opportune hire thus offered for their industry at a crisis when it might otherwise remain unemployed and the country would benefit by the useful application of their labor, at a season when it can best be spared, and most economically hired.

9. The apprehension of a scarcity in the Northern Districts, we are happy to learn has been considerably diminished by the favorable change which the season has recently undergone in that quarter. Communications on this subject from the Collectors in Ganjam and Masulipatam, are submitted herewith for your Lordship's information.

From Mr. Alexander, dated 26th November, in Consultation, 8th December.
From Mr. Fraser, dated 2nd, in Consultation 8th December.

10. On the supposition that your Lordship's orders, under date the 22nd ultimo, for suspending the exclusive sale of betel and tobacco were founded solely on the prospect of a very adverse season, the Collector in Zillah Masulipatam, has judged it expedient to delay their publication as well because the price of grain and other necessaries of life is little higher than at the same period of last year and is not likely to rise as that all the difficulties which first opposed the introduction of the Tax and which have now been surmounted will be liable to recur with double force on its re-establishment, for these reasons the Collector thinks, that unless it be the intention of Government to relinquish the tax altogether, it is unnecessary and inexpedient that the orders adverted to be carried into execution.

11. Aware that some other considerations weighed with your Lordship in issuing those orders, besides the humane desire of relieving the anticipated distresses of the people we have repeated our directions to the Collector for suspending the exclusive sale by licenses which has been established

throughout the District, and with respect to the Town and Pettahs of Masulipatam, where a duty is levied, although the mention of this place was remitted in our letter of the 30th ultimo, we have directed that no change there do for the present take place.

12. In addition to what is stated in our letter abovementioned on the subject of continuing the duty where it is now levied, we have to observe, that if it should be resolved by your Lordship to abolish that duty the impost levied on the articles in question on account of the Bazar Fund, must also cease.

Letter from Government, to Board of Revenue, dated 20th December 1806.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has received and taken into consideration, your letter of the 8th instant.

2. From the very unfavorable appearance of the present season, the Governor in Council approves the humane suggestions of the Principal Collector in the Southern Division of Arcot, for affording employment and subsistence to the laboring classes of inhabitants of that province, who would without the interposition of Government be exposed to suffer the extremities of want by directing their industry to the repair of the public roads and tanks; and His Lordship in Council considers the proposal of the Collector to pay them in grain to be the best adopted for ensuring to them a subsistence.

3. His Lordship in Council has been induced to prefer this mode, from the farther consideration of there being a considerable quantity of grain in store at the Presidency, which may be appropriated in the manner proposed by the Principal Collector in the Southern Division of Arcot, His Lordship in Council had accordingly deemed it to be proper, that instructions should be issued to the Military Board, for holding at your disposal for the stated purpose, any quantity which you may require to the extent that it may be practicable to supply.

4. The Governor in Council is pleased on your recommendation to authorize the proposed repair of the Poonamallee road, at an expense of Star Pagodas 2,526-40-32.

5. His Lordship in Council also authorizes the construction of the road proposed by the Principal Collectors in Tanjore and Trichinopoly, between Veshrampetty and Coiladdy, at an expense of Star Pagodas 589-36-0.

6. In the execution of these works the Governor in Council considers to be desirable that the Collectors should be instructed to adopt as far as may be practicable the means suggested by the Principal Collector, in the Southern Division of Arcot, of affording subsistence to the most indigent persons; and His Lordship in Council desires that you will take into your consideration how far it may be expedient to adopt similar measures in other Districts, which are exposed to distress from the failure of the rains. In districts where it may appear to you indispensably necessary to extend immediate relief to the inhabitants, His Lordship in Council authorizes you to issue the necessary orders reporting them for His Lordship's information.

7. It will, however, occur to you that this measure must be regulated with caution, and that it should not be extended to such a degree as might be liable to encourage remissness on the part of the inhabitants in providing relief for their own wants. It will be also necessary to have in view that too general a diffusion of such assistance would entail a very inconvenient burthen on the public resources.

8. You will observe that the supply of grain for the consumption of the inhabitants of the Southern Division of Arcot has been adopted chiefly from local considerations; but it is not improbable that on general principles it will be more beneficial both to the inhabitants and to the Company, that their labor should be compensated rather in money than by the supply of grain.

9. The Governor in Council learns with satisfaction that the apprehensions which were entertained of a scarcity in the Northern Circars have been relieved; and His Lordship in Council is pleased to approve the directions which you issued to the Collector in the Zillah of Masulipatam for suspending the abolition of the duty on betel and tobacco in the Town and Pettahs of Masulipatam, and for carrying that measure into effect in the villages of the Zillah only.

10. The Governor in Council is pleased on the representation contained in your Secretary's letter of the 15th instant, to permit Mr. Watts to proceed to Sea for the benefit of his health, and to be absent from his station for a period of four months.

APPENDIX X.

Minute by the President, dated 15th January 1807.

1. In the Council, which was held at our last Meeting for the purpose of determining the best means of encouraging the largest importation of grain, the particular question arose whether this would be more effectually accomplished by a fixed price to be secured by Government to all importers, or by a bounty.

2. In favor of the fixed price it was argued by Sir John Cradock and Mr. Oakes that it gave to the merchant the greatest possible encouragement by assuring his speculation from loss, and by holding out to him, at the same time, all the advantage beyond the fixed price which the market might give. It was considered to be favorable to Government, inasmuch as the price of grain would probably at all times exceed the fixed price, by which means the Government would save the bounty, and run no risk of incurring loss from wastage, godown hire, theft, &c.

3. On the other hand, it was considered better by Mr. Petrie and myself to give such a bounty as would afford sufficient encouragement to the merchant, and to declare, at the same time, the intention of Government not to interfere, in any manner whatever, with the public market. A bounty would put the Government to a considerable expense, but it was defined and limited. It was our opinion that the encouragement of a high fixed price now held forth might, in the course of two or three months, produce a very large importation of grain; that the effect of this importation might be a reduction in the price of grain below the fixed price; and that in consequence the importer would be glad to transfer at once his cargo to the Government.

4. The effects of such large transfers would be to expose the Government to losses to a very great amount. Another very objectionable effect would be the making Government the sole merchant in the market.

5. The opinion of Mr. Petrie and myself seemed to accord with the practice adopted in England, under circumstances apparently similar, by the wisdom of the British Legislature.

6. The Council deemed it expedient to consult Mr. Dick. This gentleman concurred in the sentiments of Sir John Cradock and Mr. Oakes in regard to the fixed prices. The particular information, and long experience which Mr. Dick has had in the commercial affairs of India, gave additional weight to the opinions of Sir John Cradock and Mr. Oakes.

7. After very mature consideration, Mr. Petrie and myself resolved to adopt that mode, viz., a fixed price, which appeared to hold out the most certain encouragement. Though the bounty might have been considered equally effectual, yet the same degree of certainty was not equally demonstrable, and in a case of such vast importance, affecting the very existence of this great and numerous population, every other consideration must be secondary to the best means of averting the calamities of famine.

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Minute by the President, dated 20th January 1807.

1. I feel that I cannot act more conformably to the spirit of all the orders of the Court of Directors, than in making to Council the recommendation that, in this season of severe calamity, threatening all this coast, with the exception of Tinnevelly, and extending to all the territory on this side the Western Ghats, our best endeavours should be exerted to afford relief and comfort in every practicable manner. This in such times that the fostering care of good Government becomes a blessing to the population living under its rule.

2. The Government have already taken, I hope, effectual means of providing against the misery of famine. This was the prominent danger to be guarded against. It has unfortunately, by a train of circumstances which could not have been foreseen, come upon us at the moment of the expected greatest plenty. The arrival, however, of the Native Tonnage, which had been so long detained in Bengal by the embargo imposed by the Supreme Government, will, I hope, avert all serious want, until the measure lately adopted by Government can have operation.

3. But even under the supposition that our measures shall be completely successful, and that an importation, equal to the consumption of the provinces, shall be effected, much would still remain to be done in a general failure of cultivation; the ryot not only loses his own subsistence, but he is left without the means of purchasing elsewhere a subsistence. In other parts where cultivation shall not have wholly failed, the subsistence of the ryot will notwithstanding in great measure depend upon the moderation with which the collection of the share of the Circar may be enforced. And again, at a time when in addition to the immediate pressure of want upon the inhabitants themselves, the cattle of the country, from the want of fodder and of water, are likely to suffer, it will not be possible for the former extent of agriculture to be maintained, unless liberal assistance is given to the farmer to renew both his seed-grain and cattle. There will probably be many more evils incidental to a season like the present, which will be better known to those who are more conversant in revenue management.

4. The great object of this Minute is to establish the principle, to be conveyed in a general instruction to the Board of Revenue, that our primary care should be the preservation of the real resources and riches of the country and of the State, the population; that the realization of the ordinary revenues, however desirable, is altogether a secondary consideration. The Board of Revenue have already submitted a humane proposition from the Collector of the Southern Division of Arcot. The same direction should be made circular to all Collectors where the lower orders of people are, from the want of work, unable to procure the means of purchasing grain. In the districts permanently settled, the conditions of the Zemindar's cowles should not be rigorously insisted upon. I would grant a remission nearly equivalent to their probable loss from the failure of their crops. The amount thus deducted from their annual jumma should form a balance to be discharged hereafter. The countries have none of them been long enough settled in permanency to have enabled the proprietors of estates to have attained that degree of affluence which could meet without injury the adversity of the present season. The countries not settled, the share of the produce belonging to the Circar should be collected with due attention to the actual produce.

5. In short, the principle which I wish to enforce, is consideration for the productive resources of the country. The Collectors have, in all instances, shown great zeal in the collection of the revenues, which have of late years been most successfully realized; but that zeal requires control, and, in a season like the present, an over-eagerness to collect too much would at once destroy the spring from whence, with proper management, we may again expect to see at no distant period the streams of public wealth flowing in their accustomed channel.

APPENDIX XI.

Letter from Mr. T. Munro, Collector of the Ceded Districts, to Board of Revenue, dated 8th February 1807.

1. I have had the honor to receive your letters of the 2nd, 27th, and 28th January, enclosing a correspondence with Government respecting the employment of the poor, during the present scarcity, and directing me to report upon that subject and also upon the means of averting the calamity of famine.

2. The distress attending on unfavorable season may be mitigated by encouraging importation, prohibiting exportation, reducing the rents of the lower classes of ryots, and by giving employment to the poor in public works, besides these there is perhaps no other way in which Government can interfere with any advantage, but of all these means importation is by far the most effectual for promoting the attainment of the objects in view, for if the stock of grain in the country is supposed to be inadequate to the maintenance of the inhabitants until the next harvest, it is only by importation that it can be augmented and made to last till that period, or, if the stock of grain though equal to the subsistence of the inhabitants be so dear as to place it beyond the reach of the lower orders, it is still only by importation that the price can be so far reduced as to enable them to purchase food. - If importation could be carried to such an extent as to keep the price at a moderate rate, it would be unnecesary to take any steps for the assistance of the poor, because they would easily find employment among the other classes of the inhabitants. The importation by sea to Madras has already had the effect of stopping the exportation from the Ceded Districts to the Carnatic, and of keeping grain in the Ceded Districts cheaper, than it would otherwise have been, for the price has been nearly stationary, during the last two months. This is partly owing to the intervention of the harvest season, but much more to the importation by sea, because rice imported in that way may be sold as cheap or perhaps cheaper than it can be furnished from this country. While the importation by sea therefore contributes to the relief of the Carnatic, by pouring into it supplies of grain, it produces the same effect in the provinces above the Ghauts by diminishing their exportation to the coast.

3. The stock of grain in the Ceded Districts might be made to last somewhat longer by prohibiting the exportation to the Territories of the Nizam and the Mahrattas. Though this exportation is considerable it is much less than in former years, because the drought of the present season has been so extensive that grain is every where dear, and there is no where such a difference of price as to encourage an unlimitted exportation from one province to another. The price is not yet so high as to render it necessary to stop the exportation to the Deccan, and it will most likely continue nearly at its present level until May or June. If the rains at that period are abundant,

it will probably rather fall than rise, but if they fail, it will increase rapidly and oblige me to submit to the Board the propriety of forbidding exportation to Foreign States. Such a measure however ought not to be adopted without the strongest necessity because it hinders the farmers from making up for the loss of almost the whole of their crop by the high price of the remainder.

4. As there is no mode in which the distress of the lower classes of ryots can be alleviated so readily, and generally as by an abatement of rent, I shall be careful in forming the Settlements to make such a reduction for that purpose as circumstances may require, but the failure of the crops is in most places so complete thus great numbers of ryots though the whole of their rent be remitted will be obliged to sell their cattle for subsistence, and will be reduced to the rank of labourers. This change though hard upon them as individuals, will not affect the interests of the community for the principal farmers who find it difficult to get agricultural servants will gladly hire them and the cultivation of the country will suffer little or no decrease.

5. The poor both for their own benefit and that of the public ought to be employed in repairs of tanks, nullas, wells, and in general all such works as tend to increase the produce of the country. It would in all cases be desirable to employ them as near as possible to their own villages, both in order to save them from the expense of a distant journey and from the danger of perishing by pestilential disorders which usually prevail wherever a crowd of poor and ill-fed people is drawn together from different quarters. In the Ceded Districts the repairs for the current year which have been authorized, will furnish work to a large proportion of the industrious poor, but the expense will be increased, because the estimates are founded upon the rates usually paid to Tank diggers, who being accustomed to such works, execute them much cheaper than any other class of people. The amount of the Estimate is Star Pagodas 27,239-28-11. The additional expense which will arise from the employment of the poor as day labourers cannot be exactly ascertained but it will not exceed one fourth of the original Estimate or Star Pagodas 6,809, and will probably be considerably less. I must, therefore, request that I may be authorized to disburse this additional sum of Star Pagodas 6,809. I have in a few cases found ryots who have undertaken to repair tanks at the ordinary rates. They collect men, women, and children from the neighbouring villages and make their own term with them. I have directed contracts to be made with the village people for repairs at the ordinary rates wherever it is practicable, but where it is not, I have ordered them to be paid as day labourers in the confidence that the Board will approve of the measure, because much valuable time would be lost in waiting for the sanction of Government. I have taken this step the more readily from being convinced that the additional expense is merely an advance which will be fully reimbursed by the increase of revenue, which will be received from the tanks being completed and a crop obtained from them earlier than would otherwise have been the case. Tanks are usually filled by rains in May and June, or in September and October. If regular Tank-diggers only ar employed, few of the tanks can be finished before October. If labourers of all descriptions are employed most of them will be completed before that period, and many of them in May. There will, therefore, in most cases be a gain of one and in many of two crops, and consequently an increase not only of revenue, but of the produce of the country. From this view of the subject it will appear that the most expeditious is generally the cheapest way of repairing tanks.

6. In many other provinces as well as in the Ceded Districts, the spring in wells are probably nearly dry and the water in the beds of rivers and nullahs sunk much below its usual level, and unless the supply of water is increased by digging, the rice fields in such situations will yield little or nothing. It would therefore be advisable to grant Collectors a general authority to make such disbursements as may be necessary for the security of the standing crops. It would be impossible to make an estimate of the sum which might be required for this purpose and even if it could be done, it would be too late, as the grain would have been withered before authority could be received for executing the works necessary for its safety. These works are very generally carried on by the

cultivators themselves, but from the excessive drought they have become in many places too expensive for them to accomplish, such works are at the present moment the most important of all others for they not only give employment to the poor, but by preserving the crops they lessen the scarcity and keep down the price in a more beneficial way than can be done by importation.

7. The employment which the poor find among the more substantial inhabitants is much greater than what can be given to them by Government. They are employed in their several villages as extra servants by the merchants and ryots, and many procure a maintenance by bringing in grass, firewood, bamboos and other articles for sale. In 1213, when grain was dearer than it is now, many thousands of half starved people from the Deccan, found employment in the Ceded Districts, chiefly among the ryots. Their hire was a very small portion of grain, but it kept them alive and enabled them to return to their own country. Were Government to offer to the poor any other relief than that of the wages of labour. Were it to issue grain to them either gratis or at a reduced price, it would only have the effect of increasing their number of drawing them together from all quarters and of encouraging them to abandon themselves to the protection of the public, and to neglect the salutary means of preserving themselves by their own exertions. In India as well as in all other countries, the distribution of charity by Government will always be found to increase the number of the poor which will always at least keep pace with the fund destined for their relief whatever its amount may be. Were grain in this country to be issued to the poor at any particular station, the report would soon reach the remotest corners. The relief to be afforded would be greatly exaggerated and the poor who now procure a livelihood by their labour would crowd in from all sides in the hopes of procuring it upon easier terms. It would soon become impossible to maintain such a multitude and famine would appear among them, but this is not the only evil which would attend their being drawn away from their own villages for the loss of their labour would be felt, and the crops now on the ground as well as the cultivation of the ensuing season would suffer from the want of hands.

8. The natives of India are probably as charitable as those of any other country, and the poor may be left to their care with more safety than to that of any public institution. As long as there is not an absolute famine the poor are in little danger for they will derive a subsistence either from private charity or from their own labour. Notwithstanding that the present season is beyond all comparison worse than any that has ever been known. I see no cause to apprehend a famine in the Ceded Districts, I cannot discover that such an event has ever happened in any former period unless when war was added to an unfavorable season, and from what I now see, I am convinced, that the seasons alone, however adverse, can never in one year occasion a famine, and that there is no risk of the occurrence of two such bad years in succession as to produce this calamity, for this would be supposing that to be probable which has never yet happened 1212 and 1213, were the two worse successive years ever remembered, but they occasioned no famine. The produce of the country supported not only its own population, but many thousands of emigrants from beyond the Toombudderah, besides a very great exportation to the Deccan continually urged on by the famine in that quarter at the close of the year 1213. Rice was at eight seers the Rupee, or about one third dearer than it is now, but as even that high price though it distressed the poorer sort of inhabitants produced no famine, it may be confidently assumed that such a misfortune cannot take place until the price rises above what it was at that time. But it is likely that the price will continue nearly stationary until May or June, should there be no rain in those months, it will rise but not to such a degree as to induce a famine. I found this opinion both upon my own observation and the judgment of the best informed natives, who assert that the grain on hand together with the crops on the ground, is sufficient for the internal consumption until October or November, when the harvest of 1217 begins, I am myself persuaded that it is sufficient for a still longer term, I am led to think so from the abundance of the two preceding years, from the general practice among the ryots and merchants of storing grain in pits from the present stock of the markets, and from having had an opportunity of discovering that the quantity of old grain in several villages is very considerable.

In one village it appeared that the quantity of jawari belonging to merchants amounted to 420 garce. I learned this not from any particular inquiry, but from an application made to me by the merchants, for leave to sell it in consequence of the ryots who had sold it to them last year, but not delivered it over having refused to let it be removed from the pits. In this village there is no crop in the present year, and the ryots therefore wished to keep the grain which they had sold last year, but not delivered and to replace it with interest next year. I do not mean to infer from this instance, that there are such stores of grain in every village, but I believe that there are several villages in every District in which there is nearly an equal quantity. It is unnecessary and it would be imprudent to enter into any minute investigation for the purpose of ascertaining the stock of grain in the country, for it would excite a suspicion that Government intended to lay some restriction upon its sale, and induce the owners to export or conceal it, the Bazar price furnishes a better estimate of the resources of the country, than can be obtained from any inquiry whatever.

9. Were I to look only to the crops of the present year for the support of the inhabitants I would have no doubt that a famine was rapidly approaching, but having witnessed the unfavorable seasons of 1212 and 1213 pass away without occasioning any serious distress, and knowing that the subsistence of the people does not depend entirely upon the produce of one or even of two years, I contemplate the present scarcity with little alarm, so far as it regards the preservation of their lives. The Ceded Districts from their remoteness from both monsoons are more exposed to drought than the Carnatic, and the inhabitants are hence perhaps more accustomed to guard against the effects of dearth by laying up a supply of grain in plentiful years. Jowari their principal food may be kept good in pits from ten to twenty years, large quantities of it are laid up not only by merchants, but by all the more substantial ryots, and are not brought out for sale unless in those years when prices are high, the dearth in their Districts and the famine in the Deccan in 1213, exhausted nearly all the stock of former years, but a great deal of that of 1214 and 1215 still remains on hand, and a considerable portion of it will be reserved till June in the hopes of obtaining a greater price should the rains in that month fail, almost all the lower class of ryots too, though they cannot afford to keep grain for a distant speculation usually reserve enough to maintain themselves throughout the year. Such of this class as have had no crop this year will support themselves until next harvest by working as labourers, those who have had some will provide for their own subsistence before they sell any to discharge their rent, the present season is worse than that of 1213 for the poor among the ryots, but not for the poor of other classes, because the poor of other classes are only affected by the price of grain which is not yet so high as in 1213, while the poor of the ryots are affected chiefly by the failure of their crops, whatever the price may be. The high price in 1213 was occasioned as much by exportation as by the deficiency of produce, that of the present year arises solely from the dearth the poorer ryots in 1213 obtained a quarter or a half of an ordinary crop and did not suffer from the high price but rather gained by it, but in the present year many of them have had no crop at all and though they will find means to maintain themselves, that object would by facilitated by giving them employment on tanks and other public works.

10. I am confident that the Ceded Districts will easily support their own population during the present scarcity. They can be distressed only by exportation that to foreign territories may be stopped whenever it is deemed expedient, but that to the Carnatic must depend upon the circumstances of that province. It has ceased during the last two months in consequence of the importation by sea, which if it continue to produce the same effect will be the most effectual mode of assisting these Districts. As they can derive no supplies from other quarters the price of grain which is in all countries the best ground on which a judgment may be formed of the probability of a dearth or famine must be peculiarly so in them, for it is more easy for the grain dealers to calculate the stock in a country which can draw no supply from any other and to regulate their prices accordingly than to estimate the quantity of grain in a country which can import that article by sea. If the price therefore is adopted as the measure of the stock of grain in the Ceded Districts, there can

be no cause for alarm, the vast number of petty grain dealers in Indian countries, not only keeps the price as low as it ought to be by rendering combinations for raising it impracticable, but makes that price a surer test of the quantity on hand and expected from the crop, than it would be if the trade were limited to fewer persons, for though a few great speculators might be wrong in their calculations, it cannot be supposed that several thousand petty dealers who do not upon an average supply above twenty families should be so ignorant of the trade, which they have followed all their lives as not to be able to calculate whether or not they could serve their customers until the harvest in October. If they were not satisfied that they could do so or what is the same thing if a famine was to be expected before that period, rice would not now be sold at twelve seers the Rupee.

11. It is not easy to afford any correct information respecting the state of the cattle, because a great proportion of them have on account of the scarcity of forage been driven to the hills and jungles where they are under the charge of herdsmen and not of their owners. I do not, however hear that any distemper has broken out among them. If they escape that calamity they will hold out until May, when a suply of green forage may be looked for, I shall conclude with recapitulating what I have already submitted to the Board, viz.:—

1*st*. That I shall be authorized to disburse a sum of Star Pagodas 6,809, in addition to the estimate for tank repairs of 1216, which extra expense it is supposed will be incurred from employing the poor of all classes, instead of tank diggers only.

2*nd*. That I shall be authorized to make without any previous estimate such advances as may be necessary in the course of the season for deepening wells and water courses in order to preserve the crop on the ground.

The repairs of tanks will furnish work for the poor, and the deepening of wells and nullahs to water the crop now on the ground, will furnish both work and food so much wanted at the present moment, and if the wells and nullahs are not cleared out, there will be a loss of revenue as well as of food far exceeding the probable expense. I must observe that I have already been induced by the pressure of the times to send orders on both these points to the Districts, but should they not meet with the approbation of the Board, they can be countermanded before any considerable disbursement can have been made.

APPENDIX XII.

Minute by Mr. THOMAS OAKES, Member of Government, dated 3rd September 1807.

1. In reply to the Right Honorable President's Minute of the 29th ultimo, on the subject of grain, I must observe that the Minutes lately recorded by me will show, (as indeed the words import,) that in saying "*the general sales*" had not increased since the reduction of price, I meant the sales by individuals as well as by the Company. It is true, as stated by his Lordship, that the public sales greatly increased on the reduction of price, but those by individuals fell, during the same period of twenty-four days, noticed by his Lordship, from 524¾ to 18¼ garce ; the average *general sales* in the months of June and July considerably exceed the sales in the last month when the price was reduced. My former observation, therefore, is forced upon me, that the price whether high or low did not affect the poorer class of the Natives, whose relief was the declared object of the reduction, and who being totally destitute of resource, must have perished, but for the charitable distribution of rice made to them.

2. The order of Government to Collectors, dated the 1st ultimo, seem to be the most proper that could be devised. A further reduction of price, as submitted by the Right Honorable President for consideration, would not, I conceive, answer any necessary purpose, the present price

being within the means of the laboring class of Natives. The Collectors acting under the discretion granted to them, will proportion the rate of sale to the condition of the people, and the wholly destitute will for a time be subsisted through the beneficence of Government.

3. The Right Honorable President fears we have committed a great error in not having fixed upon our grain at the Presidency a price so moderate as would have enabled the country merchants to sell it at a low rate in the interior, but experience has invariably shown their practice to be foreign to this principle. However low be the rate of purchase, the retail price will be adapted to the degree of scarcity and consequent necessities of the inhabitants.

4. It had been desirable to lay up stores of grain in places where scarcity was the greatest. Government has all along been disposed to adopt this measure, but from time to time been prevented owing to the vague and fluctuating accounts received from Collectors, giving reason to believe that little or no assistance would be required from Madras, than pressing in the most urgent terms for supplies, and again encouraging the expectation that the inland stock would be sufficient. To these contradictory reports I impute that the furnishing the neighbouring districts to the requisite amount was protracted till the mortality among the carriage cattle rendered impossible, that the necessary aid should be given in time to prevent the wretched inhabitants from flocking to the Presidency for relief.

5. I review with great satisfaction the measures of Government upon the whole of this subject. The guarantee price was the only security for sufficient supplies from Bengal, and brought the selling price under the direction of Government. Had there been no guarantee, the importation would unquestionably have fallen short. The market had been in the hands of monopolists, and long ere this we should probably have been under the necessity of purchasing rice at 200 Pagodas per garce, to save an extensive population from starving.

APPENDIX XIII.

Letter from the Poor Fund Committee, to Government, dated 19th October 1807.

1. I have the honor as Chairman of the Committee for managing the Native Poor Fund, to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Secretary Keble's letter of the 17th instant, desiring that a report of the present proceedings of the Committee may be submitted with the least possible delay, for transmission to the Honorable Court of Directors by the ships now under despatch.

2. It was the intention of the Committee to have accompanied a report of their Proceedings with an account of the number of distressed objects who have been relieved during the late period of scarcity, the number who have been removed to their villages, together with a statement of the amount of grain and money which has been expended on their subsistence. But I am sorry to observe that the limited period which is allowed for preparing this report has precluded me from obtaining from several Superintendents of Choultries the requisite documents.

3. Since the 31st August when I had the honor of submitting to Government a detailed account of the Proceedings of the Committee, their attention has been directed chiefly to the means of removing from the Presidency the numerous Paupers whom the prevalence of famine in their native districts had compelled to seek refuge elsewhere. This important object has, I am happy to observe in a considerable degree been attained. Several thousand persons have been escorted to the distant choultries established for the temporary reception of Paupers preparatory to their final departure; and large parties, each individual of which having an allowance of rice sufficient for ten days subsistence, have proceeded thence to their respective villages.

4. So considerable has been the number removed. that the Committee on the 10th deemed it unnecessary to continue beyond the 20th instant the method hitherto adopted for maintaining Paupers at the various choultries in the neighbourhood of the Presidency. The Monegar Choultry and the sheds near the Powder Mills have been considered sufficient for affording accommodation to such as remain and are not yet capable of sustaining the fatigue of travelling.

5. Instead of the mode formerly adopted for affording medical relief to the sick at the several choultries, it has been considered expedient to rent a house at Chindadrapettah for the reception of those afflicted with dangerous diseases. Shelter from the inclemency of the weather, at the present season being justly esteemed of most essential importance to their recovery.

6. At no distant period of time the Native Poor Fund Committee will have the honor of bringing under the notice of Government a correct statement of the expenditure of grain and money incurred in the benevolent work of relieving the late distresses of the poor, and of submitting Regulations for the establishment of a permanent Poor House at the Monegar Choultry.

Letter from the Acting Secretary to Committee for the Native Poor Fund, to Government, dated 18th April 1807.

I have the honor to forward the accompanying papers from the Native Poor Fund Committee, and request you will lay them before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

To the Right Honorable Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK, Governor in Council, &c., &c., &c., dated Madras, 16th April 1807.

My Lord,

We, the Committee for managing the Native Poor Fund, have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the Secretary to Government in the Public Department, under date the 21st March 1807, enclosing a letter from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, reporting that the grain, for which application was made on our account, will be consigned to this Presidency on board the Honorable Company's ships which were then under despatch ; and conveying to this Government the sentiments of the Honorable the Governor General in Council on the subject of the Fund under our management.

2. We assure your Lordship that we entertain a due sense of the indulgence manifested towards the Poor Fund by the Honorable the Governor General in Council, in permitting, at the instance of your Lordship in Council, the supplies of rice which we commissioned from Bengal to be forwarded to this Presidency on the Company's ships.

3. By the second paragraph of Mr. Secretary Brown's letter, we are gratified to observe that the Governor General in Council is not insensible of the motives by which the exertions of the Committee are influenced on the present melancholy occasion. To ensure success to those endeavours, we are convinced that a judicious application of our finances is indispensably necessary, and the circumspection which the Governor General in Council recommends will, it is hoped, appear to your Lordship in Council to have been evinced in the system we have adopted.

4. To aid the elucidation of certain points connected with the subject of this letter, it may be proper to remind your Lordship of the origin of the fund entrusted to our direction. It is to be observed that its institution is not recent ; that it was raised for the relief of the dreadful famine with which the Carnatic was afflicted during the war with Hyder in 1782 ; that after accomplishing this object, and rescuing several thousand persons from destruction, a considerable balance remained, the interest of which has since been appropriated to the support of an establishment for

the relief of the aged, the lame, and the blind, while the principal has been considered as a sacred deposit applicable, on the recurrence of a like calamity, to the humane purpose for which it was originally destined.

5. Previously to December last, and before apprehensions of famine began to prevail, the number of paupers maintained by the Poor Fund never exceeded 150. The number since that time has greatly increased; a larger establishment has become necessary; and the interest of the Fund is consequently no longer equal to the expenses of the Institution. On the 31st January, as stated in our address of that date, not fewer than 2000 persons were fed at the Monegar Choultry. Of these, many had emigrated to Madras from places far distant; and though not unable to labor for their sustenance yet, as they were destitute alike here and elsewhere of employment, it became our duty to preserve them from want, perceiving that our capital would be exhausted in procuring the quantity of grain which would be necessary, anxious to be prepared for every emergency, and that the means might exist of rendering permanent the establishment for the maintenance of the infirm Native poor, the beneficial effects of which have been experienced during a period of nearly twenty-five years, we were induced to appeal to the humanity and generosity of the three Presidencies.

6. The Governor General in Council has observed that the natural effect of any Institution for the relief of the community in periods of scarcity, is to collect the poor in vast numbers together at the place at which the grain may be distributed. While we acknowledge the justness of this observation, we may be permitted to remark that by a report received from the Nellore District, it would appear that of those whom the present unfavorable season had induced to change their place of residence, the greater part removed towards the north, to Masulipatam, and Vizagapatam; while a comparatively small number proceeded to Madras. Indeed it will invariably happen in seasons like the present that numbers of people deprived of their accustomed occupations and means of support, will resort from their villages to the more populous and opulent towns and settlements, in the hope either of procuring employment or a subsistence from public, or individual bounty.

7. To prevent the various ill effects enumerated in the latter part of the 2nd paragraph of Mr. Brown's letter, as liable to happen from numbers of persons crowding to particular places, the most efficacious method appears to be to remove the causes which favor emigration. We are at a loss to discover any mode so well adapted to promote this desirable object as the arrangement introduced by your Lordship early in the month of February. The wisdom, liberality, and philanthrophy which this plan evinces, render it impossible to bestow on it too high praises. Throughout the provinces which have been deprived of the benefits of the late monsoon, all persons capable and solicitous of labor are employed at the expense of Government in the construction of works of public utility. The allowance granted to them consists partly of rice and partly of money, and while it is amply sufficient for their maintenance, it is so much below the ordinary rate of labor as to afford satisfactory evidence that the benevolence of Government will not be liable to abuse, and that the industrious or necessitous alone will avail themselves of its liberality.

8. In estimating the merits of this system, we are sensible of many important collateral advantages which must result from it. They are of a nature not less beneficial than those to which we have adverted, but as they relate to subjects foreign to the object of this letter we refrain from enumerating them.

9. This judicious and benevolent arrangement, while it has tended greatly to relieve the Poor Fund, determined the system which it became us to pursue. Those among the Native poor of an age capable of exertion, and at the same time healthy and robust, being employed by Government, to us devolves the care of the young, the old, and all who from sickness or inability are unable to minister to their own wants. The accompanying report exhibits a view of the number of men, women, and children fed each day at the Choultry during the month of March, together with

the various monthly disbursements. Your Lordship will perceive that the number of paupers has increased during the last month from 639 to 1167, and at present there are upwards of 1500. Under the denomination of daily poor, are included those, who arriving at the Choultry in a state of exhaustion and debility are supported for a few days, and when in a condition to earn a livelihood are discharged. With respect to those permitted to reside without the enclosure, they consist of a few persons of respectable families; their former situation in life was more fortunate than their present one, and they have, on these accounts, long been allowed that indulgence. The account of disbursements, we hope, will prove to your Lordship's satisfaction, that while a due attention to economy is evinced in the execution of our trust, we are anxious to contribute as much as circumstances will allow to the convenience, health, and comfort of the paupers.

10. The ill success attending the endeavours of the charitable Institutions in Bengal for the support of the indigent during the famines which formerly afflicted that province arose, we apprehend, chiefly from the means of relief not being duly apportioned to the extent of the calamity. That this argument will not apply to the charity under our management, we trust, will appear when we acquaint your Lordship that the grain we have in store, with that which we hope shortly to receive, is sufficient for the maintenance till October next, of four times the present number of paupers. With respect to making purchases of grain in parts of the country where the scarcity is felt, and which the Governor General in Council has directed to be prohibited, we beg leave to assure your Lordship that such a practice was remote from our intention, and that the supplies we possess, and those we have commissioned, are exclusively from Bengal.

11. Having thus explained the origin of the Poor Fund, the mode in which the interest arising from it has been appropriated during the interval between the cessation of the famine of 1782 and the present period, having adverted to the excellent system lately adopted by your Lordship, to the principle on which it is our intention to proceed in endeavouring to mitigate the existing calamity, and lastly, to the objections contained in Mr. Brown's letter to Institutions similar to that under our direction, we trust we have succeeded in our attempt to satisfy your Lordship that the Native Poor Fund of Madras is exempt from those imputations of an injurious tendency, to which the Honorable the Governor General in Council conceived it might be obnoxious.

12. We take the liberty of forwarding a duplicate of this address, which we request may be transmitted for the information of the Honorable the Governor General.

To the Right Honorable Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK, Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 29th August 1807.

My Lord,

1. I have been requested, as Chairman of the Committee for managing the Poor Fund, to acquaint your Lordship in Council that they will have the honor to bring at an early period of time under the notice of your Lordship in Council a particular account of their proceedings in the discharge of the important duty confided to them. The Committee trust that their proceedings will be deemed satisfactory. The Committee, however, consider it necessary to solicit in this manner your Lordship's particular attention to an object of the first moment to the interest of their charge, and they have with this view anticipated the order of their proceedings in submitting the present reference to your Lordship.

2. Your Lordship in Council has been liberally pleased to convey the assurance of the support of the Government to the Fund which has been committed to the charge of the Committee. The Committee have accordingly received from the public stores considerable supplies of rice, which have been distributed to the Native poor under their care. Those supplies have been attended with the most important advantages; but the Committee beg to observe that the expense attend-

ing the support of the poor is now so extremely heavy as to render the resources of the fund altogether inadequate to meet the demand, unless the rice, which has been furnished, and which may yet be supplied, shall be considered as a donation from the Company.

3. The number of poor now fed daily amounts to not less than 15,000 persons, which continues to increase. According to the best calculations, which can be at present made, the expenditure is nearly 5000 Pagodas per month, exclusive of the value of grain which would amount to a further sum of double that amount, and as the whole of the fund now at the disposal of the Committee does not exceed 20,000 Pagodas, it will be apparent to your Lordship in Council that the resources of the fund must be totally exhausted, unless it shall obtain the degree of support which has been proposed.

4. The Committee are inclined to think that the communication, which was made under the authority of your Lordship in Council at the General Meeting lately assembled, may lead to the expectation that it was your Lordship's intention that the rice, which may be issued from the public stores, should be gratuitous ; but they have deemed it advisable to solicit your Lordship's specific sanction on a question of so much importance to the interests of their charge.

5. The Committee have requested me, at the same time, to observe that feeling the great importance of removing from the Presidency the numerous poor for whom it is at present necessary to provide, they have taken upon themselves to request the opinion of the Collectors in the vicinity of the Presidency, as to the practicability of now sending the paupers, or at least a portion of them, to their respective districts ; and the Committee hope to be enabled to lay before your Lordship in Council their further proceedings on this subject at an early period.

Letter from Poor Fund, to the Honorable Sir G. H. Barlow, Bart, K. B. Governor in Council, dated 18th March 1808.

In my letter of the 31st August 1807, I had the honor of submitting for the information of Government a detailed account of the principles and measures adopted by the Native Poor Fund Committee for dispensing relief to the numerous poor whom the scarcity which prevailed in the neighbouring provinces had compelled to resort to the Presidency for subsistence.

2. In a subsequent letter under date the 19th October a further report was made of the success which had attended the exertions of the Committee and of the measures, which it then appeared to them expedient to pursue. The Committee were in the highest degree gratified to observe by the letters from the Chief Secretary to Government, of the 30th September and 28th October, that the proceedings of the Committee as detailed in their several reports had been honored with the entire approbation of the Governor in Council.

3. It is my intention in the present communication to lay before the Honorable Board an account of the further progress of the measures adopted by the Committee since the date of my last letter,—to state the expenditure of cash and grain incurred in the prosecution of them ; to offer some observations relative to the number of persons whom it may be presumed have fallen victims to the scarcity in the neighbourhood of the Presidency ; and finally in obedience to the desire of the Governor in Council, to communicate the sentiments of the Committee in relation to the permanent establishment for mendicants which it has been proposed to form at the Monegar Choultry.

4. That the system pursued by the Committee had so early as the month of October to a considerable degree succeeded in effecting the removal of paupers from the Presidency, was intimated to Government in my last letter. On the 20th of October all the Charitable Establishments

in the vicinity of Madras with the exception of the Monegar Choultry, the sheds near the Powder Mills, the Choultry for the relief of Mussulmans, and the more recently established Hospital for the sick at Chintadrepettah were discontinued. As the poor recovered strength they were sent under escorts to the receiving depôts and thence conducted in parties to the districts whence they had emigrated.

5. On the 18th November the establishment for Mussulmans and that near the Powder Mills were abolished. From that period the Monegar Choultry and the Hospital at Chintadrepettah have been adequate to the accommodation of the paupers who remained, and who were incapacitated by debility or disease from sustaining the fatigues of a tedious journey.

6. The establishment of the Chintadrepettah Hospital has been attended with very beneficial consequences, by means of it many lives have unquestionably been preserved. Such of the poor as suffered under diseases of a dangerous or lingering nature were there rendered as comfortable as their forlorn situation would allow, they were sheltered from the inclemency of the season, and sustenance suited to their disorders was prepared for them. The best acknowledgments of the Committee have been conveyed to Doctor A. Mackenzie who humanely undertook the troublesome office of superintending the establishment; and Mr. Mather has also received their thanks for his assiduity and attention to the same benevolent object. The Hospital was discontinued on the 31st January, when the few remaining cases were transferred to the Monegar Choultry. The account No. 1 shows the number of admissions, reliefs, and casualties at the Hospital, from its establishment to the day it was abolished.

7. With respect to the number of persons that have been relieved by the Fund during the continuance of the scarcity, no exact account can be given. Several circumstances contribute to render this point uncertain. There is every reason to believe that at different times the same persons obtruded themselves for relief on different Choultries; and when the number and variety of new objects are considered who daily presented themselves at the larger establishments, especially at the Monegar Choultry and the enclosure near the Powder Mills, at the former of which during several months about 4,000 were daily subsisted, the impracticability of keeping an accurate register must be manifest. It may, however, on a moderate calculation, be concluded that 28,000 persons at least must have partaken of the benefits of the Fund.

8. The Committee were invested with their important charge on the 11th August last. From that time a new and much more extensive system than had been observed by the late Committee, was adopted for dispensing relief to the poor. For this purpose, besides the expenditure of the grain imported by the late Committee from Bengal, there has been received from the stores of the Company, between the 11th August 1807 and the 11th March 1808, bags 8,580, or garce 148, marcals 204, seers 7½, which, at the rate of 110 Pagodas per garce, amounts to Pagodas 16,336-6-0.

9. On the 19th February 1808, the balance of cash in the hands of the Treasurer to the Native Poor Fund amounted to Pagodas 11,205-18-55, which on the 23rd February was, in conformity to the Orders of the Honorable the Governor in Council, paid into the Company's Treasury.

10. It thus appears that there is a balance due to Government by the Fund, of Pagodas 5,130-32-25.

11. There are due of uncollected subscriptions towards the relief of the late famine, 498 Pagodas, a list whereof, No. 2, I have the honor to forward. In the mean time, the Committee are pursuing measures for the recovery of this amount.

12. The account No. 3 shows the amount of cash and grain distributed by order of Government, under the superintendence of the Committee, among 2,940 distressed Brahmins. The first issue was made on the 1st September, and the last on the 19th October 1807, at the rate of thirty bags of rice and 25 Pagodas daily.

13. It appears, by returns made to the Committee, that at various establishments for relieving the poor at Madras and its neighbourhood, 3,472 persons have died in the course of the last year. In this number are included 695 persons who died in an Hospital established for the reception of small-pox patients. From six Choultries, appropriated to the reception of poor, no returns of casualties have been transmitted: it may, therefore, be concluded that the total number of deaths which happened at the different establishments for the relief of the poor, must have been at least 3,500. The Committee are sensible that the mortality occasioned by the scarcity cannot be estimated from data so inadequate and defective as those supplied by the Returns in question; as the subject merits investigation, and as it is intimately connected with those objects for the accomplishment of which the Committee were nominated, it is considered unnecessary to apologize for an endeavour to deduce from other sources of intelligence, the number of persons whom it may be presumed were carried off at the Presidency and its vicinity by the late melancholy scarcity. A document with which the Committee have been favoured, appears to afford a tolerable criterion for judging on this important point. They allude to an obituary, for the last three years, of Madras and of the villages in its vicinity, comprehended within the limits of the Supreme Court of Judicature. This Register has been obtained by means of Peons stationed at the several places of burning and interment; to the exclusion, however, of Christian burials. By it, the deaths in the year 1805, appear to have amounted to 3,225; in the year 1806 to 4,902,—and in 1807 to 17,207. It is observable that the immortality in 1806 exceeded that of 1805 by 1677 persons. This difference may be accounted for either on the supposition that the population of Madras was progressively increasing, or that in the year 1806 diseases might have been more than usually prevalent and fatal. In the year 1807, the excess of deaths beyond the two former years is remarkable. That a greater mortality was to be expected in consequence of the extraordinary influx of new inhabitants is admitted; but the difference is too considerable to be accounted for except as the effect of some signal calamity. It is worthy of remark that the seasons last year could not be considered insalubrious. Allowing, therefore, that the deaths in 1807 might from causes connected with the usual progressive increase of the population of Madras as much exceed those of 1806, as those of the latter year did of 1805;—supposing further (and it is allowing very amply) that in the ordinary course of events 2,000 of the extraordinary population might have been carried off by causes independent of the prevailing scarcity, there will still remain an excess of deaths to the number of 8,628 which the Committee conclude must have been occasioned by the devastation of famine.

14. In reviewing the benefits which have resulted to the community from the Native Poor Fund, the Committee deem it proper to notice more particularly the attention which has been paid to promote in various instances, the comforts of the poor and the general interests of humanity. At the Monegar Choultry, in the course of the last year 2799 persons were secured against that destructive malady, the small-pox, by being subjected to the salutary process of vaccination:—937 persons who from exhaustion or disease were unable to reach a place of relief were conveyed from the streets and lanes to the Choultry in a Dooley kept for the purpose. The requisite accommodations and attendance have been afforded to women in parturition, and sixty-one children were born in the Choultry in the course of the year: thirty-eight blind persons have also had their sight restored or derived much benefit from the dexterity of a Native occulist.

15. The Committee would be wanting in justice to N. Andah Chitty, were they to omit on this occasion to mention the various and important services which he has rendered to the Institution at the Monegar Choultry. Andah Chitty was for several years a Member of the Committee for manag-

ing the old Fund. Early in the year 1806, on a more attentive investigation being made into the mode in which the charity was conducted, than had for sometime been instituted, it was discovered that a variety of abuses prevailed. At the solicitation of the Committee, Andah Chitty undertook to rectify them, and so indefatigable were his exertions and so beneficial his reforms that he not only reduced the expense of feeding the poor very considerably, but improved their diet and rendered their situation generally more comfortable. Since the commencement of the late scarcity to the present period the attention which Andah Chitty has evinced to the various duties connected with the charity at the Monegar Choultry has been uninterruptedly zealous and humane even to the detriment of his health and the neglect of his own immediate interests. I have taken the liberty of transmitting the copy of a letter addressed by Andah Chitty to the Committee No. 4 The circumstances therein mentioned are correct, and the Committee indulge a hope that they may be considered as entitling him to the favourable notice of Government. The Committee are ignorant concerning the propriety of conferring on Andah Chitty the reward which he solicits, but they are of opinion that he has proved himself eminently deserving of some honourable distinction, and they, therefore, take the liberty of recommending either that the favour he has solicited be bestowed upon him, or that he be remunerated in any othe manner which may, to the wisdon of Government, appear more appropriate.

16. I proceed to communicate the sentiments of the Committee on the subject of establishing a Poor-house at the Monegar Choultry. An Institution of this kind, under appropriate regulations and efficient management, has long been much wanted at Madras. The Committee believe there are few places where beggars are more numerous, more importunate, or apparently more wretched, or whose infirmities are more calculated to excite in the minds of beholders a mingled feeling of commisseration and disgust.

17. That these objects are not from necessity compelled to rely for subsistence on casual benefactions is rendered certain from their constant refusal to receive the profferred charity of the Monegar Choultry. In Madras, as in every other place, the prevalence of mendicity will be commensurate to its encouragement, and it is to the assistance afforded by individuals to vagrants, and to the want of a well regulated system for their maintenance, rather than to an excess of miscry, in the settlement that the evil is principally to be attributed.

18. Since the establishment of the charity at the Monegar Choultry in 1782, relief has never been withheld from those who have been incapable of earning a subsistence. From 50 to 100 objects have usually been maintained there; but they have consisted generally of such as were prevented by the nature of their infirmities from going abroad to supplicate charity. The more deplorable and shocking the appearance of paupers, the greater is the probability that they will excite the pity and obtain the bounty of the public. Hence it has been observed that many who exhibit in their persons the last degree of human misery are then least disposed to desert their vagrant habits and submit to the confinement and regulations of a Poor-house.

19. The number of paupers at present subsisted at the Choultry and the districts to which they belong are shown in the Statement No. 5. It will be observed, that of 273 persons, 40 only are natives of Madras; the remainder having emigrated from various parts of the country, particularly during the late period of scarcity, and are not yet in a condition to proceed to their homes. Besides, the paupers thus maintained, it is supposed that the neighbourhood of Madras may at present be infested by between 300 and 400 vagrants, whose infirmities render them fit objects for a Poor-house.

20. It is the opinion of the Poor Fund Committee, that an establishment should be formed at the Monegar Choultry, to afford to all mendicants, whom age or infirmity may render incapable of labour, a comfortable Asylum; and that all vagrants of this description, who may be detected supplicating charity in the streets of the Black Town, in the public roads, and at the gardens, be immediately removed to the Choultry.

APPENDIX XIII.

21. The accompanying plan No. 6 conveys a correct idea of the Monegar Choultry, with its recent improvements; of the various accommodations it affords, and of its adaptation to the end proposed. The Choultry is in an airy situation, and can accommodate, without inconvenience, 1,300 persons. Admitting, therefore, that 500 beggars, or even a much greater number, should be constantly resident in the Choultry, it is obvious, provided due attention be paid to cleanliness, that no ill-effects need be apprehended to ensue from the circumstance of so many persons being confined in one enclosure. Another advantage arising from such extensive accommodation is, that it admits of a separation of the different castes, and obviates the objection which the higher castes will not fail to urge of residing in the same place with persons of low origin.

22. The Committee are of opinion that those paupers who have not the plea of age, blindness, or other corporeal disability, to urge in extenuation for embracing the life of a mendicant, have no claim on the liberality of the community. These beggars have become such, either from choice, or in consequence of having been habituated to a vagrant life from their infancy. To dispense subsistence to them, is but to confirm them in their habits of idleness, and to encourage others to follow the same practice. It appears to the Committee that such paupers as are able to work may be employed upon the public roads by the Committee for managing the Road Lottery. Such a measure would be consistent with the objects for which the Lottery was established. Their pay may be regulated according to the quantum of work they perform. It is improbable that many will submit to restrictions so repugnant to their inclinations, and so contrary to their habits; but the beneficial effects of the plan will not, on these accounts, be the less apparent. While such beggars as labour under disease or infirmity, shall be removed and confined to the Monegar Choultry, those of an opposite description must either submit to work, to confine themselves to their habitations, or remove to a distant settlement.

23. It is not the intention of the Committee to enter into a minute consideration of the various regulations it may be proper to make for the internal economy of the institution at the Monegar Choultry. It appears to them that the execution of this task will devolve with more propriety on the Gentlemen who may hereafter be appointed to administer the affairs of the charity; especially as circumstances may occur to render it expedient to establish rules for which there now exists no apparent necessity. The Committee will content themselves with delineating the more permanent features which ought, in their opinion, to distinguish the plan which may be adopted; convinced, should their sentiments be honoured with the approbation of the Government and the public, that little difficulty will occur in completing the outline.

24. The Committee concur in the expediency of the affairs of the charity being placed under the direction of a Committee constituted in the mode suggested in the Chief Secretary's letter of the 30th September 1807. But they are apprehensive that the Gentlemen who may be elected members of the Committee, will be prevented, by other avocations, from devoting a sufficient degree of their attention to the internal management of the charity to ensure an exact compliance with the orders of the Committee, and to prevent the various abuses which, without a constant control, it must be expected, will prevail in an establishment of this nature. Instead of proving a benefit, a charitable institution, without an adequate and vigilant superintendence, will become at once a burden and reproach to the community. It hence appears requisite that a Superintendent be appointed to act under the Committee. This is a measure of considerable importance, especially during the infancy of the establishment, and one in which the success of the Institution would appear to be materially involved.

25. It were desireable that the Gentleman who may be selected for filling the office of Superintendent should possess leisure, an active and benevolent disposition; and a competent knowledge of the languages, characters, and customs of the natives. The Committee are of opinion that Captain Keay, of the Invalid Establishment, is endowed with these qualifications, and that he would discharge the duties of the situation with diligence and effect. Under these impressions, a communication has been made to Captain Keay, and he has expressed his readiness to devote his

attention to the good of the public in any manner which the Government may require. The Committee are induced to believe that Captain Keay will afford his services gratuitously ; but they recommend that he be requested to accept such monthly sum as will reimburse him for the expense of a conveyance and for all other charges which the office may occasion.

26. In the following estimate of the expenses of the Poor-house, the calculations have been made on the supposition that the number of paupers will amount to 500. It is the opinion of the Committee that the establishment should be regulated to provide for that number, although it is probable that the paupers will not greatly exceed 400, since many who are now at large at Madras may perhaps be induced to remove from the Presidency, rather than submit to the restrictions imposed on them at the Choultry. It may also be expected, in consequence of the great age of some, and of the malignant nature of the diseases with which others are afflicted, that the number must diminish considerably in the course of one or two years. The present mode of feeding the poor at the Monegar Choultry is at once consistent with economy and agreeable to the paupers. If, in conformity to the recommendation of the Committee, it should be continued, the rate of calculating the expense of victualling at one Fanam each pauper per day, will be found to be nearly correct. In the year preceding the scarcity when there were only 140 persons subsisted, the average expense of each, including servants wages and every other charge, was 42 Fanams per mensem ; but it is to be observed that the establishment of servants was nearly as great at that time as is requisite for 500 paupers. During the last year when the number fed was generally from 2,000 to 4,000 a day, the average cost including all charges has been 33 Fanams, 70 Cash each per month. It is to be observed that in this estimate of one Fanam each per day, the expenses of servants, clothes, and beetle are not included. It may also be expected that rice will hereafter be cheaper than it was during the last year, and an additional saving may be effected in this article, by purchasing when grain is cheap, a stock of paddy sufficient for a year's consumption.

	Pags.	Fs.	Ch.	Pags.	Fs.	Ch.
500 Paupers subsisted at 1 Fanam per diem, for 30 days	...	...	...	333	15	0
Beetle and Tobacco for do. do.	...	...	...	30	0	0
Servant's Wages.						
A European Serjeant to reside at the Choultry, per month	8	0	0			
1 Conicopoly to keep accounts	4	0	0			
1 Do. to go to the Bazaar, &c	3	0	0			
3 Peons	5	11	0			
3 Cooks, including one Bramney Cook	6	0	0			
4 Waterwomen	5	0	0			
3 Persons to clean Rice, 2 Men and 1 Woman	3	0	0			
1 Barber and 1 Washerman	3	0	0			
3 Toties	3	0	0			
1 Doctor	3	0	0			
				41	11	0
				404	26	0
For 12 months	...	...	...	4,854	0	42
Cloths twice a year to each pauper	...	...	...	150	0	0
				5,004	0	42
To which may be added for repairs, Chatties, Matts, and other incidental expenses	...	...	...	195	0	3
Total expenses for 12 months' Pagodas	...	...	...	5,200	0	0
				or		
For 1 month	...	...	...	433	7	0

27. It will thus appear that exclusive of the allowance to the Superintendent to defray the expenses of an establishment for 500 persons, either a capital is required to the extent of 65,000 Pagodas, or a monthly subscription from the inhabitants of Madras, of Pagodas 300, which sum, with the interest arising from the liberal donation of Pagodas 20,000, which the Honorable the Governor in Council has stated to be his intention to make on the part of the Company, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum will produce the requisite income.

28. In order to insure, as far as may be practicable, a liberal contribution, the Committee beg leave to recommend that the following measures be resorted to.

(*a*) That the Ministers and Church Wardens be requested to investigate the present state of the Church funds and the list of Church pensioners, with a view of ascertaining if the subscription of one Pagoda per month from individuals towards enabling the Church funds to afford a subsistence to widows and children, can now be dispensed with.

(*b*) After the Governor in Council shall have approved of the Plan and Regulations for the Poor-house, that they be laid before the public.

(*c*) That two subscription books be circulated; one for donations, the other for monthly contributions.

29. The Committee beg leave to suggest that the following Regulations should form the basis of the new system for providing for the poor of Madras.

(*a*) That the Magistrates and Superintendent of Police be requested strictly to enjoin the Police Peons to convey all aged and infirm paupers that are found begging to the Monegar Choultry; and those of an opposite description, that are able to work, to such place as the Committee for managing the Road Lottery may be pleased to appoint.

(*b*) That the gate of the Monegar Choultry be kept locked, and no pauper on any account whatever be allowed to go out, unless specially permitted by the Superintendent, or one of the Members of the Committee.

(*c*) That the accommodations be distributed, in such a manner among the paupers, that separate places may be assigned to the different castes and sexes.

(*d*) Many paupers who may be received into the Choultry though incapable of earning a subsistence by their industry, may yet be usefully and advantageously employed both to themselves and the charity, either in assisting in the usual business of the Choultry, or in making ropes or other occupations.

(*e*) So intimate a connection subsisting between the objects embraced by the Poor Fund and the Native Infirmary, it appears expedient that all paupers whose lives may be in imminent danger, or whose diseases require skilful medical aid, should be removed to the Infirmary. For this purpose, the Surgeon to that Institution should be instructed to admit such paupers as the Superintendent or one of the Members of the Committee may think proper to send from the Choultry.

(*f*) For conveying paupers of the abovementioned description to the Native Hospital, that two Dooly bearers from the Dooly Corps be ordered to attend always at the Choultry.

(*g*) That an effective Native Guard, as at present, consisting of one Naigue and four Sepoys be stationed at the Choultry; and that this Guard be relieved twice a week.

(*h*) That the Chief Secretary to Government, the Town Major, and the Superintendent of Police be perpetual Members of the Committee. That the number of elected Members do not exceed nine, and that they be chosen annually.

(i) That the Committee do assemble quarterly or oftener if requisite. That a visiting Member be appointed from the Committee every month, to whom all references connected with the Institution, shall be made, and it were to be wished that he would visit the Choultry at least once a week.

The tendency which charity individually administered has to increase the number of applicants, and to encourage idleness and vice, must ever form an insuperable objection to such a mode of relieving the distresses of the poor. A public institution dispenses relief economically and effectually, and holds forth few temptations to indolence. Every respectable inhabitant of Madras must often have deplored the want of such an establishment. Of the objects who have experienced his generosity, he must be aware that few have had a legitimate claim to it; he must be convinced that his liberality has often been applied to the worst purposes; that it has subjected him to reiterated and innumerable applications, and proved detrimental to the best interests of Society. The sum bestowed by individuals in this manner it is supposed considerably exceeds what is required for defraying the expenses of the proposed establishment, and the Committee indulge a hope that when the nature and advantages of the Institution are understood, every inhabitant of Madras will cordially co-operate in contributing to its success.

In concluding this Report, the Committee consider it to be a proper occasion to bring to the notice of the Honorable the Governor in Council, the high sense which they entertain of the merit of Mr. Sherwood, who has officiated as Secretary to the Committee in a manner deserving of their fullest commendation. Mr. Sherwood acted for a considerable time as Secretary of the former Committee for the management of the Poor Fund; and in the change which took place in 1807, he, at the particular request of the Members of the present Committee, continued in the performance of the duty, gratuitously and with a degree of diligence and ability, that claims a public acknowledgment. The Committee accordingly, on these grounds, beg leave to recommend Mr. Sherwood as a gentleman who, in their opinion, strongly merits the attention and favour of the Government.

APPENDIX XIV.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated 28th October 1823.

Read again the letter from the Secretary to the Board of Trade, dated the 17th instant, enclosing one from Mr. Savage, Commercial Resident at Ingeram, relative to an apprehension of scarcity.

1. Resolved that it be intimated to Mr. Savage, through the Board of Trade, that, though his motives were good, his proceedings are highly disapproved, as having the most injurious tendency, and as being at variance with justice and good order. The only object of grain-merchants in withholding grain from the market is either that they would not be safe from violence in selling it, or that the buyers are not willing to pay what they consider an adequate price. The duty of public officers, therefore, is to afford them full protection, and to allow them to sell at their own price. Competition amongst themselves, and a regard to their own interest, will prevent them from raising the price too high. The effect of such measures as Mr. Savage pursued must be to deter merchants from bringing grain to a place where, besides popular violence, they are exposed to the exercise of unjust authority in disposing of their own property. Such measures cannot fail to aggravate the distress they were intended to relieve, and are as indefensible on grounds of policy as on those of justice.

2. The Governor in Council also considers the application made to the Supreme Government for a supply of rice to have been very injudicious. It must, under any circumstances, have been premature, since the effects of a bad harvest could not be felt till after the proper season for reaping

the harvest ; and the apprehensions of its effects must have been greatly augmented by the nature and terms of the application. Even in a scarcity, if Government were to become importers of grain, they would derange the course of the markets to such a degree as to do much more harm than good, and they would become morally responsible for the supply of the people throughout the whole season.

3. All that Mr. Savage ought to have done was to procure the most accurate information in his power, and lay it before Government, and, in the meantime, to use his best endeavours to quiet the alarms of the people and protect the grain merchants from their violence.

4. Resolved that an extract of these Proceedings be furnished to the Board of Trade, with a copy of the Circular letter in the Judicial Department, dated 12th July 1822. Resolved also that an extract of these Proceedings be furnished to the Board of Revenue.

APPENDIX XV.

Letter from Principal Collector and Magistrate of the Northern Division of Arcot, to Government, dated Chittoor, 3rd December 1823.

1. I have just received from the Tahsildar of this district on the Mysore frontier a report that representations have been made to him by the merchants usually resorting to Mysore for supplies of grain, that the Amildars there have prohibited the sale of grain of all kinds for export to the Company's territories—as such a measure is calculated to excite a considerable alarm among the Natives, and to cause those possessed of grain in these parts to withhold it from the market, I have considered it to be my duty to bring the report to the notice of Government without loss of time.

2. The failure of the rains have naturally raised the price of grain very considerably in this part of the country, and I regret to say that, in some instances, the disposition of withholding it have been manifested particularly by the merchants of the Cavalry Cantonment of Ranepettah, and where the Troops have been considerably distressed to procure grain, though on inquiry it was found that there was an ample present stock in the place, but that the merchants denied having any in their bazaars.

3. The orders of Government prohibiting any interference with the sale have been promulgated to several Police Officers, and it has been notified to the merchants that they are at full liberty to dispose of their grain at what rates they think proper, at the same time they have been recommended to sell, being apprehensive that withholding these necessaries might lead to disturbance.

4. I am not aware that any tumult has actually occurred from this measure, but from grain not being procurable a few days hence in sufficient quantities at Ranepettah, the Troops were under the necessity of making representation on the subject, and it was with some difficulty that the merchants were prevailed upon to supply them, denying that they had grain, when it was found that there were in some bazaars large quantities.

5. I am very apprehensive, if the merchants persevere in declining to sell their grain, that some disturbance may arise. I am consequently desirous to ascertain whether Government may deem any further intimation to the merchants necessary, or if they consider that ensuring a free market is alone calculated to remove the evil complained of.

APPENDIX XVI.

Letter from Government, to the Principal Collector and Magistrate of the Northern Division of Arcot, dated 12th December 1823.

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, and to state that the Honorable the Governor in Council approves of the course of conduct which you have pursued.

2. Perfect freedom of market, by which the public interests are best promoted at all times, is most essentially necessary in a season of scarcity. The want of it tends, at all times, to make grain scarce and dear, but when that is the case already, it tends to produce a famine. If the scarcity is not real, the dealers have no motive for keeping back a sufficient supply from the market, and they are not able to enhance the price beyond what will yield them the ordinary rate of profit. If a scarcity is only apprehended, the case will be the same as soon as the apprehension is removed. If it be real, or be apprehended on good grounds, the best alleviation of the evils unavoidably attendant upon it is to satisfy the dealers in grain that they will be effectually protected against popular violence, and against the interference of public authority. In giving them this assurance, which you should constantly do, you will have the opportunity of encouraging them to supply the markets in proportion to their stock in hand, their only objects in not doing so being to raise the price and to escape plunder.

3. All duties on grain have been suspended till the 31st of December 1824, and the propriety of allowing a free transit of grain from the Mysore country into the Company's territories will be pressed upon the attention of His Highness the Rajah.

APPENDIX XVI.

Letter from Government, to the Principal Collector and Magistrate of the Northern Division of Arcot, dated 13th June 1824.

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Committee for managing the Monegar Choultry at Madras, with a copy of the reply to it, relative to the relief to be afforded to persons of the lower classes who may be suffering from actual want, in consequence of the protracted dearth and drought. I also transmit a copy of a very useful Memorandum prepared by a Committee, who have been employed in affording such relief at Royapoorum.*

* See Appendix XVII.

2. To relieve the distress prevailing in your district, and to prevent the sufferers from deserting their homes in quest of relief at Madras, the Governor in Council is pleased to authorize you, to a limited extent, to act upon the plan described in the accompanying papers, and to incur the requisite expense for that purpose.

3. You will perceive that the whole intention is, in cases of necessity, to supply a moderate quantity of homely food, under such regulations, as may guard against imposition, and may not encourage idleness. With proper management it is computed that each individual may be fed at an expense of one Rupee a month.

4. The aid of your public servants, and of any respectable inhabitants in the neighbourhood, should be obtained to the necessary extent. The object in view will be promoted by dispensing relief at more than one station in your district, provided that this can be done under proper checks against abuse, and provided that it would not have the effect of swelling the demand for relief, under the idea of its being afforded not as matter of charity within necessary limits, but as an administration of public funds capable of being carried to an indefinite extent.

5. The able-bodied are to be required to labour for the food with which they may be supplied, and you will devise such employment for them as may seem most useful, having less regard however to the value of the work than to the object of allowing none to eat the bread of idleness who are capable of earning a livelihood.

6. You will report fully the measures which you may adopt under the present instructions, and will send in a weekly statement of the number of persons fed, and of the number employed, and also of the expense incurred on that account.

APPENDIX XVII.

Letter from the Committee for managing the Monegar Choultry, to the Honorable Sir THOMAS MUNRO, Governor in Council, &c., &c., &c., dated 12th July 1824.

In a letter which we had lately the honor of addressing Government, we remarked, that a great number of distressed objects, who had come in from the neighbouring districts, had applied for charitable relief at the Monegar Choultry, to whom, however, assistance had been imparted as sparingly as was consistent with humanity; for we apprehended that a knowledge of a gratuitous supply of food being readily obtainable at Madras, might induce great numbers of inhabitants to desert their villages and resort hither for sustenance.

2. Since the date of that letter, the influx of people, who have not the means of procuring subsistence, has very greatly increased; about the end of May, the pauper inmates of the Choultry and of the Leper Hospital voluntarily proposed that their own daily allowance should be diminished, and the quantity taken away be appropriated to feeding the out-door applicants; and it is very satisfactory to state that from the store formed of these contributions between about the 20th of May and the end of June, upwards of thirty thousand scanty meals were administered.

3. But this relief at length became very insufficient for the wants of the sufferers who daily increased in numbers, and we have found ourselves called upon, in full reliance on the benevolence of Government, greatly to extend the supply of food to the distressed and starving people who crowd around the gates, and of whom a very large proportion are women and children.

4. For a few days, and until we could form some idea of the ultimate extent of the demand that might be made for relief, we gave a small quantity of boiled rice and conjee to all whose wretched appearance bespoke probable distress for food. But we are fully aware that such a system of distribution is productive of much evil and opens a wide door to imposition, and although the season is now so far advanced that the protracted drought, we trust, will soon be terminated by a favourable fall of rain, which will enable the cultivators to return to their villages, and although there is less cause to fear that inhabitants of distant villages should now be tempted to abandon their residences to seek subsistence at the Presidency, still we are fully impressed with the necessity of using every endeavour to detect imposture, to prevent an accession of idle people of residents of Madras, having the same means as before of earning their subsistence, and above all we are aware of the propriety of limiting the relief to a meal sufficient only to preserve life and not such as to tempt the receivers to continue a burthen on the charity, when a better provision may be obtained by work, or by a return to their places of usual abode.

5. Under these impressions we held a meeting of the Committee on Saturday the 9th at the Choultry, when it was resolved to submit the following plan, to be carried into effect as soon as it shall receive the sanction of Government:—

APPENDIX XVII.

1*st*. That four stations be appointed for the reception and feeding of the distressed who are unable to work—

One at the Choultry itself.
One at Royapoorum.
One at Perambore.
One at Chintadrepettah.

That the Government be requested to permit the Superintendents of those Depôts to avail themselves to the extent that may be necessary of the public buildings at those places, viz., the old Infirmary at Perambore, the Barracks at Chintadrepettah, and to erect Pandalls adapted for the proposed object, where public buildings may not be had.

That the assistance of the individuals who have supported an establishment at Royapoorum, during the last six weeks for the supply of food to the distressed, with great success in the system of its administration, be requested to assist in forming the establishment at each of the above Depôts.

That the following Gentlemen be requested to give general superintendence to the Depôts:—
Perambore, Lieut.-Colonel Farren and Lieut. Legget, of the Veteran Battalion.
Chintadrepettah, the Acting Town Major and the Revd. R. A. Denton.
Royapoorum, Mr. VanSomeren.

Monegar Choultry, Mr. Dalzel and Mr. John Arbuthnot, with the visiting Members

That at each station there be entertained as many conicopolies and cooks as are absolutely required, and that the Superintendents of the Depôts be authorized to modify the establishment as may appear necessary, and to send in their bills for expenses incurred weekly to the Committee of the Monegar Choultry (to be discharged by them), with weekly returns of all persons fed and sent to the Depôts for the week.

That a Special Committee of Managers of the Monegar Choultry do meet once a week to receive the reports.

That the applicants be allotted to Depôts as circumstances may require.

That the applicants be separated into two classes, viz., of such as are able, and such as are unable to work.

All persons able to work to be furnished with a cadjan ticket and sent to such rendezvous of workmen as the Government may be pleased to appoint.

All persons unable to work, to be furnished with a ticket to obtain food at one of the Depôts.

That one common hour be established for the distribution of food and the delivery of tickets at each of the Depôts.

That the Honorable the Governor in Council be requested to allot some public work for the employment of such as are able to labour, and that authority be given to the Officer under whose charge they may be placed to supply a moderate meal of ordinary food to all such as may be sent from the Depôts, or come to him for employment.

At the suggestion of our colleague, Major Ormsby, we beg leave to bring to the notice of Government that in 1811-12, under circumstances of scarcity something like the present, Government appointed an Officer to superintend the repair of the Coonatore road, whither all the working classes needing employment were sent, and that some repair of the same kind now would be very beneficial, both for the employment of the people, the convenience of travellers, and drawing away the beggars out of the town, where multiplied evils now prevail from the collection of a heap of starving strangers.

In conclusion, we beg the favor of having a credit on the Treasury to the extent of about 6,000 Rupees in addition to the 2,000 Rupees balance due by us of the former advance of 10,000, of which 8,000 have been repaid.

APPENDIX XVII.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING RELIEF HOUSES, ESTABLISHED IN 1824.

The following calculations are formed upon the supposition that the number of persons to be supplied with food daily amounts to 2,000.

A Pandall should be erected of the following dimensions, 80 feet long :—

20 feet broad.	20 feet. Godown for firewood.	20 feet. Godown for utensils.	Space allotted for grinding and beating the Grain.	10 feet.
	40 feet. Cooking apartment.		40 feet. Space for cooling the Congee.	10 feet.

The Pandall may be built of palmyras, enclosed with bamboo mats ; the roof to be thatched with palmyra-leaves, and the whole put together simply with ropes and string, so that the principal materials may not suffer injury, but be taken down hereafter and sold. It is estimated to cost Rupees 175.

The following is a list of utensils, &c., as the outlay that will be required for the use of the Pandall:—

	RS.	A.	P.
15 Grinding Stones, at 1½ Rupees each	22	8	0
5 Stone Mortars and Pestles	16	8	0
5 Beer Casks to be cut in halves, for cooling and distributing the Congee	10	0	0
13 Tin pots to contain half a gallon or 2 quarts each	2	8	0
12 Tin quart pots	1	8	0
20 Bamboo Sifters (Morums) and 20 large common mats	5	0	0
30 Common Cocoanut-shell Ladles	0	4	0
100 Straw stands (Peroomany) for pots to rest on	1	0	0
2,000 Tickets for the people that receive food. 1,000 do. for the people able to work	35	0	0
Rupees...	94	4	0
Say Rupees.....	100	0	0

Most of the above articles may be sold after the Charity ceases.

MONTHLY ESTABLISHMENT.

2 Connicopolies, at 2½ Pagodas each	17	8	0
8 Coolies for grinding, sifting, cooking and distributing the food, seven at 6 Rupees each, and a head cooly at 7 Rupees	49	0	0
Firewood, 5 Rupees per day	150	0	0
Pots, Chatties, &c., (note, these will constitute a regular monthly charge, as a pot for boiling the food will not last on an average more than 15 days before it cracks)	20	0	0
Salt, Chillies, Oil, Brooms, &c., &c	13	8	0
Rupees...	250	0	0

Two Police Peons will also be required, and Four Police Taliars.

It is proposed that the food to be distributed among the people should consist of one part of Rice and two parts of Natcheney. This should be mixed together and boiled into *very thick congee.*

APPENDIX XVII.

The quantity of congee that should be given to the people, should be half a gallon, or two quarts each to adults and 2 chillies, and a quart each to children. This is quite sufficient for one meal a day.

The time appointed for the distribution of the food should be at 6 o'clock in the morning.

During the day the coolies should be employed in beating, sifting, and grinding the Natcheney and washing the Rice; the grain should then be fixed in the proportions above specified; and the boiling commence at 4 in the afternoon.

100 Pots of 1 foot 6 inches in diameter will be sufficient to boil congee for 2,000 people.

A pot will require to be boiled about one hour. Thirty Pots may be boiled at the same time; then 30 more, and so on till the whole of the food is prepared; the cooking will be concluded at 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening.

The congee may remain in the pots in which it was boiled, till the next morning, when it will be required to be served out among the people. Tubs should then be placed at convenient distances, the people first being made to sit down in regular lines, the tubs be filled with congee, and the distribution be made in the proportion before laid down.

If the Establishment be found inadequate to serve the people in a reasonable time, assistance might be obtained from the people applying for relief.

Two kinds of tickets should be printed on cards or on pasteboard: one, for the recipients of the bounty of Government in food; the other, for the people who are able to work. The following forms for the tickets are proposed for those who require food:—

"Government Charity."

"Royapoorum" (or Perambore, &c.,) as the case may be.

For those who are able to work—

"Able to work"—"From Royapoorum" (or as above.)

The Talliar will discriminate between the up-country and the Madras people, and those of the former who are considered able to work, will be sent with a ticket to such places as the Government may be pleased to appoint for them to labor.

The people who are really necessitous and unable to toil and manual labor, will receive a ticket, which will entitle them to food daily. Tickets should be given to all such applicants, and when they afterwards appear, the ticket should be received from each one, as soon as the food has been given; and when the whole number assembled has been supplied, the tickets are to be restored to them. This measure will prevent any one applicant being twice served, and also be a check against imposition.

The estimated expense of feeding the poor on the foregoing scale, reckoning the Natcheney at 4 Marcals, and the Rice at 3½ Marcals per Pagoda, and taking into account the regular monthly establishment amounting to Rupees 250, will be about 67 Rupees for 2,000 persons per day, or 2,000 Rupees per month, thus producing the average of one Rupee per month for each person receiving one full and sufficient meal per diem.

The above calculations have not been formed upon supposition, but are the results of actual experiments.

If the business of the outlay and establishment is to be managed by the Superintendents at Royapoorum, they will require an advance of 500 Rupees to enable them to erect and furnish the Pandall and engage the requisite servants, and an order on the Superintendent of the Monegar Choultry to supply them with grain for 15 days each time. The quantity for that period will be 600 Marcals of Natcheney and 300 of Rice. The Superintendents of course engage to render a detailed account of their disbursements, and to refund any money that may eventually remain in their hands.

The Pandall can be completed in three days after the advance is made.

(Signed) J. BRADDOCK.
,, G. VANSOMEREN.
,, D. JOHNSTON.

APPENDIX XVIII.

Letter from Government, to the Committee for the Management of the Monegar Choultry, dated 13th July 1824.

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to state that the Honorable the Governor in Council entirely approves of the humane and judicious suggestions therein offered, and desires that they may immediately be put in practice.

2. The Governor in Council is sensible that the protracted dearth and drought must have pressed with great severity on the lower classes of the people, and, at the same time, deprived many of them of their ordinary means of earning a livelihood; and, moreover, that the state of the community renders private benevolence wholly inadequate to mitigate so general a calamity. It is, however, of extreme importance that the relief to be administered should, as far as possible, bear the character of springing from charity, rather than of being a mere administration of public funds. The Governor in Council particularly approves of your suggestions as being calculated to promote this object.

3. After the usual fall of rain, food will become more cheap and plentiful, and labourers will again be able to find employment. It is desirable that when this happens, none should wish to receive gratuitous aid, and that it should be wholly withdrawn—a result which will easily be effected as the consequence of only a moderate supply of homely food, during the season of scarcity.

4. To afford the necessary relief in the neighbouring districts, and to prevent a concourse of distressed objects at Madras, authority will be given to the Collectors of Chingleput and the Northern Division of Arcot to a limited extent, to distribute food on the plan which you have proposed.

5. The Superintendent of Police and the Superintendent of Roads will be instructed to communicate with you regarding the best employment for the paupers who may be capable of working, and to set to work those who may receive tickets upon the proposed plan, till some system for that purpose may have been authorized.

6. The Governor in Council grants you a credit of six thousand (6,000) Rupees on the General Treasury, according to your request, to enable you to meet the necessary demands upon you.

APPENDIX XVIII.

Circular of Government to Collectors, dated 30th November 1832, *No.* 1060.

As it would appear probable that a scarcity of grain from the failure of the periodical rains will be very generally felt under this Presidency, I am directed to acquaint you that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council relies upon the energy and judgment of the local functionaries to mitigate, by their personal exertions, the evils necessarily attendant on such a state of things. The Circular instructions of Government of the 12th July 1822 have forbidden all interference with the supply of grain, or the regulation of prices; but the Right Honorable the Governor in Council feels assured, that while it would be impolitic to exercise the authority of Government in such matters, very great and good effects will result from the personal exertions of the local authorities in advising and conferring with the grain merchants where prices may be raised exorbitantly high, or where there is a disposition on the part of the merchants to withhold altogether the supplies of grain from the market for the sake of a prospective benefit. Much and probably more may be done by Collectors in this respect by advice and personal communication with the grain merchants, than by the direct exercise of authority, and the Right Honorable the Governor in Council trusts that they will direct your especial attention to this important point.

APPENDIX XX.

Circular of Government to Collectors, dated 4th December 1832, *No.* 1067.

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to press upon your attention the necessity, under the present prospect of a scarcity of grain, of a full and free communication with the several Collectors under this Presidency, in respect to the grain resources of their respective districts, with the view that the surplus grain in one district may be made available for the supply of those where the want of it may be most severely felt. Any instance of non-compliance with these instructions will incur the severe displeasure of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

APPENDIX XIX.

Letter from the Principal Collector of Nellore, to Government, dated 5th January 1833.

With reference to my letter of the 7th ultimo, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that I commenced, as on the former occasion in 1824, to distribute boiled rice to the poor on the 10th of last month, and advanced 600 Rupees for he purpose. A further sum has been required, but having not been favored with orders on the subject, I have restricted the latter to the lowest possible amount, viz., 400 Rupees, till orders can be received.

From Government to the Principal Collector of Nellore, dated 8th January 1833, *No.* 25.

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and to acquaint you that from the reports received by the Government it does not appear that the scarcity of grain, at present experienced in the country, bears any approximation to that felt in 1823-24. You will be pleased to submit to this office a comparative statement of prices between that year and the present, explaining, at the same time, the restrictions under which you have distributed the rice mentioned in your letter.

2. It is, in all respects, unadvisable to continue dispensing food at the public charge whenever it can be avoided, not only because it necessarily attracts a multitude of people who ought to subsist upon the produce of their industry, but because it alarms the inhabitants by impressing them with the idea that the scarcity of grain in the country is so great as to justify the Government in employing such unusual means for the alleviation of it.

APPENDIX XX.

Circular of Government to all Collectors, dated 23rd January 1833, *No.* 90.

1. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has been informed that in some districts the free transit of grain has been impeded by petty local officers professing to act under authority, with the view of inducing the merchants to dispose of it in the village markets, and thereby affecting a reduction of price.

2. A variety of pretexts may, with great plausibility, be assigned for the interposition of vexatious obstacles to attain this end, particularly the excuse that the dealers have neglected to comply with some local regulations, or that they have smuggled goods concealed amongst the grain—a real or pretended reference upon the subject to the Collector produces the delay by which their object is accomplished, and the merchants are glad to purchase immunity from such annoyances, either by the disbursement of unauthorized fees, or by selling a portion of their supplies for permission to carry off the remainder.

3. These proceedings are calculated to reflect discredit upon the Government, and must inevitably tend, in districts suffering from scarcity, to augment the distress by withholding the only remedy that can be applied to it.

4. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council desires to press upon you the absolute necessity of interdicting, in the most peremptory manner, any interference whatever on the part of your subordinate officers, either in forcing the markets, or employing threats or persuasion for the purpose of throwing a larger supply of grain into any particular quarter, than would reach it in the natural current of mercantile speculation. You will be pleased by proclamation to intimate this determination to all, and it would be desirable to apprize your Choukedars, or farmers of inland customs, that any abuse of their authority in this particular will be followed in the one case by immediate punishment, and in the other, by cancelling their cowles. It would be far better that Government should lose a small sum by a few instances of successful smuggling, than that the inhabitants of the country should suffer from a deficiency of provisions.

APPENDIX XXI.

Circular of Government, to Collectors, dated 16th April 1833, *No.* 418.

1. I am directed to acquaint you that a very considerable multitude of Native poor has assembled at Madras, and that their number, unless effectual measures are taken to suppress it, is likely to augment from day to day. The Medical Officers at the Presidency are not without apprehension that amongst so large a concourse, some virulent disease may be generated, which would be followed by the most lamentable consequences.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council, therefore, urgently requests that you will use your best exertions to arrest the progress of this evil, by providing those who are able to labor with work, and in preventing as much as possible the resort of indigent individuals, both from your own and neighbouring districts, to the Presidency.

3. If absolutely necessary, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council grants sanction for the establishment of a depôt in your district for the distribution of food, but you must doubtless be aware that this is a dangerous expedient, and by attracting numbers from all parts of the province, is too apt, if not well regulated, to aggravate the distress which it is intended to alleviate. You must, therefore, be most cautious that (if you shall deem such a step indispensable) the measure may be confined to the narrowest possible bounds; that the grain dispensed is boiled; and that the quantity given to each applicant is restricted to the smallest portion calculated to afford sustenance. You will also be pleased to report to me your proceedings in this important particular from time to time, communicating by the same opportunity all needful information respecting the state and prospects of the season.

4. You will likewise be pleased to state how many persons are at present employed in labor, and how much is daily expended in payment for either wages or provisions.

APPENDIX XXII.

Letter from Collector of Masulipatam, to Government, dated 10th May 1833.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 16th ultimo and 3rd instant, relative to the increased number of poor at Madras, and calling on me to adopt measures to prevent, as far as possible, the increase of an evil from which serious apprehensions are enter-

tained, in reply to which I beg to state that instructions have been issued to the Ameens in the districts bordering on the Kistna to use their best endeavours to carry the orders of the Government on this point into effect.

2. From the statement herewith sent you will observe that depôts for supplying the starving population have been established in this Zillah since the beginning of January, the expense of which, up to the end of March, amounts to Rupees 5395-12-0 ; they are in different parts of the district, and from the small amount of cost for each person, averaging 14 Annas and 4 Pies per month, the Government, I trust, will be satisfied that the temptation is insufficient to induce any, save those in actual want, from having any wish to participate in the bounty. The rice is boiled and served out in proportions of about quarter Madras measure.

3. To those employed in work, a greater allowance is given to enable them to have two meals in the twenty-four hours. I found but few who were able to labor among them, and those I sent to the village of Kytapully to be employed on the tank ; but I doubt if the value of their work will repay the increased expenditure.

4. In addition to the evil of starvation, we have also had the small-pox very prevalent throughout the district, and trusting that the Government would give their sanction to the small expenditure required for the purpose, I erected a few sheds for those attacked with this disease, and who were wandering about spreading the infection, to which they might be brought, and where Mr. Thompson, the Medical Officer attached to this Zillah, affords them his assistance.

5. Much as has been done by the Government for the people throughout the country, I fear that numbers have perished for want ; many of the daily applicants leave the Lungerkhanah in this place unsatisfied, and were the amount of expenditure doubled, I doubt whether the numbers of that portion would be diminished.

6. The only relief we have to look forward to is in the hope of a favorable fall of rain. I am glad to say that some showers of considerable extent have fallen in the western parts of the district, but until the cultivating population are in full employment I cannot expect any great diminution of the misery under which the poorer classes now labor.

7. I shall be prepared to receive the persons belonging to this district now at Madras.

APPENDIX XXIII.

From the Collector of Guntoor, to Government, dated 10*th June* 1833, *No.* 517.

1. With reference to my letters of the 12th and 20th April, I regret to state that the distress of the district has considerably increased since the last mentioned date, and no rains of more than literally momentary advantage have fallen, and their continuing to hold off has considerably enhanced the price of grain. A statement comparative between the 1st and 7th instant is enclosed. It is marked No. 1.

2. Nos. 2, 3 and 4 show the increased charities by Government, amount of labor provided, and charities of private bodies, as far as they have come to my knowledge.

3. On the 12th April, I submitted an abstract of the expenses estimated for improving the great road from Masulipatam to Madras through Guntoor, and stated that its estimate was so great I should not venture to commence it without sanction. I beg to apologize for my inadvertent information ; the work had been already commenced, and I have since continued it, and the

earth-work is now in a considerable state of progress ; but I trust the expediency of the work itself, and the necessity of finding employment for the poor, will be my excuse for proceeding, after I had discovered my mistake, which was solely occasioned by my ignorance of the locality of the district.

To the amount of 3000 Rupees have been completed.

4. The repair of tanks, &c., in the Mulrauzwar estate, though not yet having passed through the usual forms to obtain sanction, has been commenced, and the Board of Revenue have acquiesced in that part of my proceedings.

5. A few days ago I addressed a private letter to the Principal Collector of Tanjore, enclosing the selling prices of grain in this district, to be distributed to the merchants of Nagore to induce them to ship grain for these parts, if they could find their advantage in so doing. The rise in price is not so much from the increasing scarcity as from the holding off of the rains. A heavy fall would, I doubt not, lower them again immediately.

6. Extensive conflagrations, destructive of some human beings, cattle, grain, and other property, has added considerably to our distress. Means must be considered for averting or lessening this calamity in the ensuing season.

7. When I addressed you on the 8th ultimo on the subject of the Guntoor emigrants, I promised myself I should soon have returns that would enable me to bring the state of the district under notice by figures ; but I regret those statements are not yet in a sufficiently complete form for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor.

8. To speak generally I am led to believe that out of a population of five hundred and odd thousands, one-fifth part do not know in the morning where or how to obtain their daily meal. To keep the whole alive from day to day would very speedily absorb the entire revenue of the country ; what portion the Government is willing to sacrifice I cannot pretend to judge ; what has been done for their relief I have above explained ; that effectual relief has by no means been given, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council will at once judge from the present statement. I should be thankful for any instructions on what calculation as to numbers to base the distribution of food gratuitously ; the extent of the distress precluding the possibility of relief to all. The nature of the relief afforded entirely precludes the Bramnical caste from partaking in the slightest degree.

Full revenue 22,00,000, Three months feeding of 100,000 is 4½ lacs of Rupees.

The correspondence accompanying Board's letter of 30th January 1833 does not assist me at all on this point.

9. The Kistna has come down, but it affords no other assistance to the district than a tolerably sufficient boundary against Hyderabad depredators. It is still not too late in the season to expect rain, and we do expect it, and there seems to be reason for it, from the appearance of the sky, but we have been too often deceived but that our fears should predominate over our hopes. I am inclined to think crime, though still very great, is on the decrease. A partial re-appearance of the small-pox after my letter of the 12th May, made it necessary again to take advantage of the services of one of the extra vaccinators previously dispensed with.

From Government, to Collector of Guntoor, dated 18th June 1833, No. 684.

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, respecting the state of the poorer classes in your district.

2. There can be no doubt from your description that poverty and want exist to a great extent throughout your Collectorate, but the Right Honorable the Governor in Council hopes that the fears which you entertain of its increase will not be realized, and trusts that the rain, which has prevailed in a greater or less degree throughout the provinces, will extend to Guntoor. It must be recollected that in all seasons, and at all times, a great proportion of the population in every district is dependent upon daily labor for daily food, and as the Government have granted you authority to employ all those who are capable of working, it is hoped, but after deducting these, you will find the number of absolutely helpless paupers very far below what you may now estimate it to be. If the present season should prove favorable, a large proportion of those now laboring on Public Works will be withdrawn for agricultural pursuits, and the district will then soon be restored to its usual state.

3. It can never be expected in times of calamity, occasioned by a dearth of the necessaries of life, that effectual relief can be extended to every individual sufferer; and it would be injudicious to go too far by being profuse. If a Government is lavish in its endeavours to mitigate distress, it must necessarily add to the evil by attracting a greater number of applicants. The only safe measure to adopt in granting food to a population suffering from the actual pressure of scarcity, is to restrict it within the narrowest limits sufficient to support life. The establishment of depôts for the gratuitous distribution of food is always from its consequences a measure of great danger, because it is apt to augment the evil which it was intended to remedy ; but when a necessity for such an extreme measure exists, as it has done in the late season, the scanty relief that it affords, (and it is designed to be scanty) can of course be denied to none who are reduced to such a state of abject distress as to render their existence dependent upon its being granted to them.

APPENDIX XXIV.

Letter from Collector of Rajahmundry, to Government, dated 13th August 1833.

1. The continued prevalence of the dry weather, and the misery and starvation around me, obliges me to request the sanction of Government to some expenditure on account of poor sufferers of this district, principally women and children.

2. From March up to the end of last month, I have been able, principally through the means granted by the gentry of the station, and some of the Natives, able to afford it, to dispense food to about 5000 persons daily, but the rains which promised so fair in the beginning of July having failed, it is necessary that the charity should be continued some time longer. I have made provision for some assistance, but not adequate to the want of the district for this month, but the Native portion of the community have intimated their inability, from the advanced price of grain, and the demands of their own dependants, to continue their contributions, and I am induced to solicit the benevolence of Government for the short time, two or three months, that further assistance may be required. I consider that a sum of 6 or 800 Rupees judiciously expended, with that which is now received, will be sufficient to mitigate, in some degree, the existing misery, which I fear is fast increasing.

3. I have not made this appeal until I consider it absolutely requisite. As long as we could from private subscriptions be of use, I have considered it far preferable to the expenditure of public money, but unless my request be now granted, death must speedily put a period to the sufferings of many of the famishing poor.

APPENDIX XXV.

Letter from Government, to the Collector of Rajahmundry, dated 20th August 1833, *No.* 912.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 13th instant, and to convey to you the authority of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council for making such small disbursements as may be absolutely necessary to provide for the subsistence of the destitute poor of your district. You will submit accounts of the disbursement for sanction through the Board of Revenue.

APPENDIX XXV.

Letter from Government, to Principal Collector of Nellore, dated 27th August 1833, *No.* 952.

1. I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit, for your information and guidance, the annexed Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Public Department, under date the 16th instant.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council desires that you will put yourself in communication with the Collector of Chingleput, and that you will be prepared to meet him on his arrival on the border of your district, to concert with him the measures necessary for carrying into effect the object of forwarding the paupers to their villages, providing for them on the way.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, Public Department, dated 16*th August* 1833, *No.* 1175.

1. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council entirely concurring with the Committee for the management of the Monegar Cloultry in considering it necessary that early and decided measures should be taken for dispersing the very great crowd of able-bodied and healthy paupers now assembled at the Presidency, resolves to adopt the suggestion of employing them in parties of 3000 or 4000 on the great northern road from Madras to Nellore; and requests that the Committee for the management of the Monegar Choultry will immediately make arrangements, in communication with the Inspector General of Civil Estimates, for carrying it into effect.

2. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will be requested to give the necessary orders for detaching a small party of Sappers and Miners, under a European Officer, to accompany each party of paupers proceeding to the work. The Officer will superintend the distribution of food to the paupers, and direct their labor. The Civil Engineers of the Northern and Centre Divisions will be instructed to proceed forthwith to the road to point out to the Officers in charge of parties of paupers the repairs required, and the Collectors of Chingleput and Nellore, after having proceeded in person to the road, and made all necessary arrangements in communication with the Military Officers, will each cause an Assistant to be stationed in the neighbourhood of the working parties to assist in procuring supplies, tools, and materials.

3. It is not intended to confine the people exclusively to the road, but to extend their labor to any tanks or other works in its vicinity. The Officers in charge of working parties will understand that they are not to prohibit but to encourage, as much as possible, the departure of the paupers to their respective districts, but they are to prevent their return to the Presidency.

4. Supplies of rice will be furnished from Madras by the Committee for the management of the Monegar Choultry, and conveyed to the working places by the Public Carriage Department. The Monegar Choultry will be closed against all applicants who are able to work as soon as arrangements shall have been made for their employment on the northern road, or as soon as it shall have been ascertained that sufficient supplies have been provided for their subsistence in the districts from which they have emigrated.

APPENDIX XXVI.

Letter from Mr. E. MALTBY, 3rd Member of the Board of Revenue, to Government, dated Bellary, 10th October 1854.

I have the honor to report that in obedience to the orders conveyed in Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 2nd ultimo, I reached Bellary on the 16th idem, where I met the Collector and the Acting Civil Engineer of the Division, and am now enabled, after making various local inquiries, to offer the following report on the present state and prospects of the district.

2. When the Government directed me to proceed on this mission, the Collector had expressed his fear that, in consequence of the continued drought, it would be necessary to continue giving employment to the distressed population at a monthly outlay of four lacs until December next. A subsequent fall of rain, which was reported to the Board of Revenue by the Collector on the 4th September, enabled some of the dry lands to be sown, and advantage was taken of this opportunity and of some showers which had previously fallen in a few favored localities to reduce the number of persons employed on the famine roads, and lower the wages paid to them. Thus, while in July the numbers employed fluctuated between 96,000 and 100,000, and the outlay amounted to Rupees 2,86,314; the number to whom employment was given in September was diminished to 63,000, and the expenditure of that month is expected to be within Rupees 1,50,000.

3. The above fall of rain did not, however, fill the tanks, and permitted the dry lands to be cultivated only in some talooks. The weather also continued afterwards dry and unpropitious, and in consequence of the limited extent of cultivation, and the uneasiness which was felt for the early crops on the ground, prices which had shown a tendency to decline rose to their former height, and the applicants for employment on the charity roads again increased in number.

4. The cultivation returns up to the end of August, the latest date to which they have been fully received, give the following result:—

Assessment of lands cultivated up to the end of August.

No.	Talooks.	In 1262 (1852).	In 1263 (1853).	In 1264 (1854).	Remarks.
		RS.	RS.	RS.	
1	Bellary	90,676	63,353	53,734	As the season in Fusly 1263 was unfavorable, the cultivation returns of 1262 are included in this statement in order that a comparison may be made between the cultivation of the present season and a previous ordinary year.
2	Kumply	74,489	76,970	62,041	
3	Hurpunhully	75,483	71,963	59,859	
4	Koodleghee	1,03,349	93,157	85,863	
5	Hoovenhudgalee	79,978	74,495	66,710	
6	Adony...	1,35,030	1,18,982	1,18,962	
7	Goollem.....	48,597	33,410	20,813	
8	Punchapollem	1,04,549	96,247	81,092	
9	Gooty.....	71,993	66,223	66,223	
10	Yadakee.....	77,994	72,955	60,229	
11	Raidroog...	69,221	53,833	35,907	
12	Maduckserah	63,105	60,297	47,304	
13	Anantapoor	94,010	92,709	72,695	
14	Pencondah	70,154	86,815	50,886	
15	Codecondah	49,689	57,954	32,670	
16	Taudputry	57,064	64,482	41,825	
17	Dhurmaverum	1,04,577	1,05,723	70,482	
	Total.....	13,69,978	12,89,561	10,27,315	

It will thus be observed that there is a general deficiency, and that the northern and central talooks, which formed the principal scene of distress in the early part of the year, continue to

exhibit an unpromising state. In the Cantonment of Bellary water became scarce, the great tank continued completely dry, and the surrounding plains of fine black soil remained unsown. A report written by the Senior Assistant Collector on the 15th ultimo, after personal inspection, shows, that between Bellary and Patacottacheroovoo, near Gooty, a distance of 40 miles, not 50 acres of the regur or black land have been brought under tillage. In the sub-division also, the wet cultivation, especially under the great tanks, is much below the average.

5. The month of September closed, therefore, under circumstances to cause much anxiety. prices remained at a famine height. Cultivation was a third below its ordinary extent, while the advanced period of the season, and the great loss of ploughing cattle, created doubts how far it could be subsequently carried on, and reports from the talooks showed that the growing crops were in imminent danger from the continued drought. I am thankful to say that a fall of rain, in the first week of October, has brightened this unpromising prospect. The Moongaree, or early crop, may now be regarded as safe, and if the north-east monsoon should hereafter prove favorable the distress in the district will gradually abate, though, meanwhile, it will be necessary to furnish the poorer classes with means of support until the close of the year, by continuing to give them employment on Public Works, under the discretionary power vested in the Collector by the Order of Government, dated 25th July last, and the low rate of wages now paid is a guarantee that none but persons in actual distress will seek this method of subsistence.

6. But I trust that the numbers employed on the charity roads will be now reduced to some extent, instead of becoming larger, as was feared, until the present valuable showers. Partiality for agricultural pursuits, and the incitement of high prices, will lead the ryots to cultivate their lands wherever possible, and when their fields are sown, they will be able to obtain loans or other private assistance. If the season continues favorable, they will be further relieved by a fall in the price of grain though the markets will continue high, until the approaching harvest is secured. But there will still be a large number of people who must perish or seek subsistence in pillage, unless support is afforded them until the close of the year, when the harvest will furnish employment as well as make food less dear. Villages with their lands still untilled and strewed with the bones of the dead cattle, and crowds eager for employment on the roads at rates averaging only Rupees 2 per mensem, when cholum, the common food, is Rupees 241 per garce, or 13 Madras seers per Rupee in Bellary, demonstrate this necessity, and show from what disorder and calamity the liberal measures of Government have hitherto relieved the district.

7. Anticipating, therefore, the necessity of expending sums varying from 1 to 1¼ lacs per mensem in employing the people during the months of October, November, and December, I have given attention to the question of the manner in which their labor can be turned to best account, and am of opinion that the large crowds should continue to be employed in finishing and extending the roads now in progress. New irrigation works could not be immediately undertaken from a want of plans and estimates, and although in a few instances this difficulty does not exist, the cattle have so extensively perished, that carriage is not procurable for carrying the material necessary for masonry works. The Toombudra river channels also cannot be cleared and improved at this season when the freshes prevail, and the construction of roads forms, therefore, the principal means of employing the people. Fortunately, it is a description of work which supplies the most crying want of the district, and on which large masses of untrained laborers can be employed with comparative facility.

8. But if the expected rains of the north-east monsoon should again fail, the distress will be so great as to render it necessary to afford aid to the people beyond December, and though this calamity may, I trust, be spared, it seems advisable to be prepared for it by framing projects for works to improve the condition of the district. If it should unhappily be necessary to continue giving employment to the people, these works could then be immediately undertaken,

and, under any circumstances, I trust that they will be gradually carried out as the public finances and the available means of superintendence permit, with a view to prevent or mitigate the consequences of future unfavorable seasons, and raise the district from its present backward and depressed state. The works to which I allude are divisible into the two classes of works of internal communication and irrigation.

9. At the head of the 1st class the proposed railway to connect Bellary with the Presidency is to be placed, and it appears most important that no delay should occur in deciding whether the line is to be taken through Cuddapah or Bangalore, and in commencing the work; but my duty here seems limited, to bringing the subject to the notice of Government.

10. Ordinary roads, some of the 1st and others of the 2nd and 3rd classes, to open the district and to connect its principal towns with each other and with the adjacent countries form the next desideratum; and as the official records* oblige me to point out that this large province with an area of 13,000 square miles and a population of 1,229,599 souls possessed, until the present year no arched bridges, and only 13 miles of made road, the greatness of its wants will be immediately apparent. It requires no arguments to show that under such a disadvantage no district can advance in prosperity and civilization, and the want of roads is peculiarly felt in Bellary, in consequence of the great distance which its produce has to traverse, and the nature of the soil which becomes impassable for wheeled conveyance after any rain. The lines of road undertaken this year, to give employment to the destitute population, will therefore prove of most important benefit; but they are still unbridged, and require some extension to complete their usefulness. A comprehensive project for this purpose has been prepared by the Acting Civil Engineer, and forwarded to the Board of Revenue in the Department Public Works. Lieutenant Walker calculates that the outlay required to finish the roads in Bellary and Kurnool (omitting bridges over such large rivers as the Pennaur, Huggry, and Hindry,) is 14½† lacs, and that the work could be satisfactorily executed in four years under the present superintending establishment. The clearness and completeness of Lieutenant Walker's letter induces me to lay a copy of it at once before the Government, accompanied by a map of the Bellary District, in which the various roads projected and in progress are marked, and as the importance of these lines‡ is unquestionable, and the wants of the district are clear, I trust that the execution of the scheme, including a bridge over the Huggry at Purmadavenhully, may be found practicable within no distant period. The amount of the requisite outlay is doubtlessly great, but this is explained by the large area of the province and its entire want of roads until the present year.

* Vide Enclosure No. 1 and Extract from Civil Engineer's Report, dated 21st November 1853.

† Of this sum, 11 lacs may be taken for Bellary.

‡ These lines lead towards Hyderabad, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Bangalore, Hurryhur, and Dharwar.

11. Among the roads now in progress, one line§ leads from Bellary to the Toombudra river, on the western boundary of the district, and it seems to me of great importance that a cart road, practicable in all weathers, should be continued thence through the Dharwar limits to the Canara frontier near Malghi, whence there is already a good road, *viâ* Sirsi, and the Neelacoend or Devamanny ghauts to the seaport of Coomptah, an outlet would thus be afforded for the produce of Bellary, especially its cotton which is now calculated to be increased in price 20 per cent. by the cost of conveyance and salt, while various other articles might be brought from the coast in return. The best line for this road through the Dharwar territory, appears to be by the trading towns of Havanoor and Havaree, but I have requested the opinion of the Acting Civil Engineer who has much local knowledge, and on receiving his

§ An estimate for this line between Bellary and Humpasaugur amounting to Rupees 28,744, was sanctioned by Government, on 20th October 1851.

reply will again bring forward the subject, in the hope that Government may deem the project of sufficient importance to request the co-operation of the Bombay Government in carrying it into execution.

12. Before quitting the subject of roads, it may be allowed me to illustrate their striking advantage by the instance of the line recently made from Bangalore, *viâ* Toomkoor, Seerah, and Heeriore to the Bellary frontier at Herahall, within 13 miles of the town of Bellary. This road is thoroughly bridged and has been of incalculable benefit, in the present disastrous year, by enabling the surplus grain of Mysore to be brought in carts to relieve the scarcity in Bellary. If pack bullocks had continued to be the only means of conveyance, the scarcity of forage would have prevented any considerable quantity of grain being introduced, and the distress caused by the failure of the monsoon would have thereby received a fearful augmentation.

13. On the subject of the irrigation works of the district, and their improvement and extension, I have had the advantage of perusing a detailed report of Major Henderson, besides communicating personally with the Collector and Lieutenant Walker, the present Officiating Civil Engineer. In the 87th and the following paragraph of that report, Major Henderson observes, "the district "of Bellary is almost bountifully supplied with rivers and tributary streams for the irrigation of "its soils. It certainly does not possess the advantages inherent to a district situated at the "delta of an important river, or on the sea coast, but it contains within itself all the essential "elements of prosperity. The rivers and streams which intersect it might be taken advantage of "to a much larger extent than now for the supply of works of irrigation."

14. In this paper Major Henderson observes, that the revenue derived from the principal works of irrigation, or from works yielding each upwards of Rupees 500, amounts only to Rupees 5,68,320, while the lands dependant upon them, according to the Ayacut Accounts, ought to yield an additional six lacs, assuming a similar disparity in the minor irrigation works between the cultivation and ayacut. Major Henderson argues that the total nunjah revenue of the district ought to exceed its present amount, Rupees 11,35,369, by twelve lacs, and that allowing four lacs for land which, from various causes, has become unfit for tillage, Government now loses eight lacs of Rupees annually, from the ineffective state of the irrigation works.

15. On referring, however, to the Collector, I find that Major Henderson omitted to deduct from the Ayacut beriz the 25 per cent. remission allowed by Sir Thomas Munro's Order in 1822 which at once reduces the loss attributed to the disrepair of irrigation works from twelve lacs to six, and part of the remainder is owing to the uncertainty of season which in this district subjects the Nunjah cultivation to continual variation. The former Collector, Mr. Robertson, paid particular attention to the repair of the old, and the formation of new tanks, and Mr. Pelly is of opinion that the lands under these reservoirs are now cultivated, as far as the annual supply of water permits. With respect, however, to the river channels, especially those leading from the Toombudra anicuts, the Engineer and Revenue Officers are of opinion that great improvement might be made. From being unprovided with head sluices, they are subject to continual injury in high freshes, and Major Henderson records in his diary that they suffered much damage in the storm of May 1851. Cultivation is now checked by the yearly necessity of clearing them out, which operation entails considerable expense, and is only imperfectly performed, and the state of all these channels appears to require a thorough and skilful examination ; but the weakness of the Civil Engineer's Department, and the weight of duty now devolving upon it renders this impracticable without some additional aid. The length of the Toombudra channels is 100 miles, and the average annual expenditure upon them amounts to Rupees 13,000 ; but numerous channels from the other rivers also require the improvement of masonry heads and sluices.

16. The construction of new irrigation works forms the next subject of consideration, and opens a most encouraging prospect for the amelioration of a province which requires so much improvement in its general condition, as well as protection against the vicissitudes of season. The capabilities of its rivers are generally admitted, and it is an object of the utmost importance, in a district so exposed to long periods of drought, to store the water which they bring in season of flood, and turn it to agricultural use. The principal river, the Toombudra, which is also the most valuable stream from its perennial flow of water, has now nine anicuts used for irrigation. But there are also the remains of three anicuts at Moodulhutta, Soogoor, and Munchala, which, in the opinion of the Local Engineer Officers, might be turned to valuable advantage. The first and third of these anicuts are supposed to have been commenced under the former Hindu Government, and to have been left in an unfinished state, in consequence of political disturbances. Regarding the one at Mutcheala, Major Henderson has recorded that it is in fair order, and principally wants an irrigation channel.

17. The next largest rivers are the Pennaur and the Huggry, and although they have not a flowing stream in the dry season like the Toombudra, their freshes bring down large volumes of water which it is the more important to store by means of anicut and reservoirs, because these rivers flow through a barren part of the district, which is peculiarly exposed to suffer from drought, and is now in a backward and unsatisfactory state. Respecting that "most favourably "situated river the Huggry," Major Henderson observes, "for the whole of its course in the "Bellary District (100 miles) it ought to be considered as the main irrigation channel of the "plains through which it flows, the construction of four or five anicuts across its bed, with the "necessary auxiliary works, would change the character of the district and diffuse happiness and "plenty, where there is now but misery and starvation, and this could be accomplished by the "judicious expenditure of five lacs of Rupees."

18. The Pennaur has been already sufficiently examined to ascertain that suitable places for the construction of anicuts are to be found at Hindoopoor, in the Pencondah Talook, and at Roddum, when water could be taken to supply the great Anantapoor and Singunnalah tanks. Several minor rivers, the Chithravathy, the Hindry, the Chinna Huggry, &c., might also be turned to valuable use, in the opinion of Major Henderson and Lieutenant Walker, but the overwhelming duties which devolve on the Civil Engineer and his limited establishment in this extensive division, have prevented detailed plans being prepared, and my object on this occasion is less to bring forward specific works of improvement than to notice the general capabilities of the district, in the hope that Government may be enabled to detach an Engineer Officer on the special duty of examining its rivers and streams, and preparing plans for improving its limited and defective irrigation.

19. There is, however, one work projected by the Acting Civil Engineer Lieutenant Walker, for which I would earnestly solicit the early sanction of Government. It is for the construction of an anicut across the Huggry to supply the Kunnakul tank, and irrigate a large area of land in the Raidroog Talook, at a cost of Rupees 88,092-9-4, according to a detailed estimate recently forwarded to the Board of Revenue, Department Public Works. The Raidroog Talook, which was formerly highly prosperous, has fallen off in its cultivation and revenue to a striking extent, and a glance at the map which accompanies this letter will show the importance of introducing fertility and industry into a central part of the district, where drought and barrenness now prevail.

20. In support of my recommendation for the services of an extra Engineer Officer to aid in planning the irrigation works necessary to raise the district from its depressed state, I beg to refer to the opinions of the late and the present Civil Engineers, regarding the necessity of such a measure. In his report of the 21st November last, paragraph 120, Major Henderson observes "When it is considered that I am the only Engineer Officer in the Bellary District, and that the "districts of Canara and Kurnool are also placed under my charge, composing a collective area

" of 27,000 square miles of territory, it can hardly be expected that much progress should be " made in the execution of new or important Public Works. Under such circumstances, it is diffi- " cult to make head against the annual wear and tear of the works already in operation." And in " giving me a Memorandum suggesting irrigation improvements, Lieutenant Walker observes. " The next question arises as to the Agency by which these preliminary investigations can be " carried out. The Civil Engineer cannot venture to meddle with them, while the general duties of " three districts, one very distant from the others, have to be discharged by him with no profes- " sional help beyond that afforded by four Revenue Surveyors. The nature of Canara work at " present is such as absolutely requires the presence of an Engineer accustomed to the tracing of " ghats, and who should have sufficient local knowledge to enable him to determine, with as little " delay as possible after reaching the spots, certain questions relating to the rivers and harbours " of that coast. The sooner the two Districts of Bellary and Canara are divided into separate " charges the better ; neither can be neglected with impunity, and either is enough to occupy a Civil " Engineer's time fully with a competent Assistant in Kurnool, an Assistant for the Road Depart- " ment exclusively, and two Executive Assistants for irrigation works already in hand ; one more " Engineer Assistant would be required to devote his time exclusively to the investigation of " irrigation projects, the Civil Engineer himself not being liable to be called off to Canara."

21. The projects for irrigation improvements, which have been thus far alluded to, are confined to works within the limits of this district, but it appears proper to offer a few remarks on a scheme which occurred, I understand, to the Chief Engineer Colonel Cotton, for connecting the Toombudra with the Huggry and Pennaur rivers by a canal, to be used for purposes of navigation as well as irrigation. On consulting Lieutenant Walker, the Acting Civil Engineer of this Division, upon the project, I find him of opinion, that the Toombudra would furnish sufficient water if the supplies brought by its high freshes were retained in large reservoirs. These reservoirs would have to be formed in the Nuggur country, as a sufficient command of ground could not be obtained for the canal, unless it was brought from the Toombudra as high up as Hurryhur. It would be necessary, therefore, to make a very extensive inquiry before commencing a work of this magnitude, besides obtaining the co-operation of the Mysore authorities, within whose territory the reservoirs and a considerable portion of the canal would have to be excavated. Even if it should be found on inquiry that physical difficulties could be overcome, the expense might prove an obstacle, and the wants of the Bellary District are so pressing that I am of opinion attention should first be given to improve its internal irrigation by repairing the three ineffective anicuts in the Toombudra, and constructing other dams, with the necessary auxiliary works, across the Pennaur and Huggry rivers, and some of the minor streams at those places where their water can be turned to advantage. After thus taking measures to guard the district against drought, the practicability of Colonel Cotton's important scheme might be carefully examined.

22. In a continuation of this report, I propose noticing the pressure of the famine in the district during the past year ; the result of the liberal measures of Government in affording the people relief ; the expenditure incurred on this account ; the arrangements under which employment was given, and the nature of the work performed. As these details will still occupy me a short time, I deemed it advisable not to delay reporting on the prospects of the season, and the outlay which will now be apparently necessary to give the poorer classes subsistence until the end of the year, when the first crop will come into market and moderate the present distress. I was also anxious to lay at once before Government my suggestions for the permanent improvement of the district in order that if this monsoon should unhappily fail, the intended works may be in train for execution, and have the additional advantage of giving the people employment during a time of scarcity and distress.

23. At present the district is not in that state which the Government would desire to see, and which its capabilities admit of. A want of roads has isolated it from the adjoin-

ing provinces, and placed its agricultural and general industry under heavy disadvantages; and unless the scantiness of its annual rains is remedied by taking advantage of the rivers which providentially intersect it, drought, with its fatal consequences to the inhabitants and their farming stock, must be periodically expected. The measures now proposed by me are the early construction of the intended railway; the consideration of the Acting Civil Engineer's scheme for completing and bridging the lines of roads commenced during the late distress, in order that authority may be given for proceeding to complete them with the aid of the present superintending establishment, when it is no longer necessary to employ the people from motives of charity; the immediate execution of the estimate for an anicut across the Huggry river at Kanacul, in the Raidroog talook, and the appointment of an Engineer Officer, for the special duty of examining the rivers, and preparing estimates for improving and multiplying the present irrigation works. I feel confident that the measures here advocated would conduce no less to the increase of the public revenues than to the prosperity and happiness of the province.

24. After the main lines of road now in progress and under proposal have been completed, it will be of great importance to maintain an establishment to keep them in order and execute the annual repairs which the traffic upon them and the effects of the monsoon rains will render indispensible. But I do not now enter into this subject, because the Acting Civil Engineer has already brought it before the Board of Revenue, Department Public Works, and such arrangements as have been allowed for the conservancy of main lines of road in other parts of the Presidency will doubtless be sanctioned on this occasion. With reference, however, to the minor or village and talook roads of this district, I beg to offer one remark. The discretionary Road fund at the Collector's command has been lately raised from Rupees 650 to Rupees 2,500 per annum, but this latter sum is inadequate to the wants of an extensive province in which there is so much to be done in improving the communications between the talook cusbahs, and giving access from the chief villages and towns to the main lines of road now under construction, which, without such feeders, would lose much of their value. I am, therefore, of opinion that a sum of not less than Rupees 10,000 should be placed annually at the command of the local authorities for the purpose, of which Rupees 3,000 might form the Collector's discretionary fund, and Rupees 7,000 be expended, with the approval of the Board of Revenue, upon improvements suggested by the Collector and Civil Engineer in consultation.

25. The state of the assessment in the Goollem talook, to which my attention was called in Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 5th ultimo, will form the subject of a separate letter.

Extract from a Report of Civil Engineer Major HENDERSON, C. B., on the Public Works in the Bellary District, dated 21st November 1853.

Para. 88. If it be acknowledged that the district is impoverished, and that its people are more barbarous in comparison with other districts, the cause of this is not to be sought for in themselves, but in the circumstances under which they have been placed. Shut out from intercourse with other countries, highly taxed, exposed to famine and drought, and flood and pestilence, without adequate public measures being taken for averting these constantly recurring evils, it is not surprising that both the people and the district should deteriorate. This state of things is to be regretted, but the capabilities of the district are great, and it is only necessary that a liberal portion of its surplus revenue should be applied to the construction of works of irrigation and the

formation of roads to raise it to an equal degree of prosperity with the more favored districts near to the Presidency. The rivers and streams which intersect it might be taken advantage of to a much larger extent than now exists for the supply of works of irrigation, and though considerable portions of the country are covered with cotton soil, gravel, suitable for the formation of excellent roads, is generally obtainable at a depth of from one to three yards below the surface. The sterile aspect of the country and the almost total absence of trees on its surface is attributable generally to this fact, so favorable to road making. Notwithstanding these great advantages, however, the district is still wanting in everything that can make a country prosperous, or raise a people from the most abject poverty, to a state of comparative happiness and comfort. Irrigation, as compared with the capabilities of the district, is defective to a great degree. Roads, there are none deserving of the name. There certainly are tracks through some parts of the district marked out by Aloe milk bush hedges, but from want of bridges and drains these tracks are divided into isolated portions by the rivers that intersect them. At present there is not a single arched bridge available for travellers throughout the district, though it is intersected by rivers and streams in every direction. The district is actually locked up from the surrounding provinces, and without means either for export of its produce, or for the introduction of European articles of commerce. It is also avoided, as much as possible, by European travellers from the want of those conveniences possessed by other districts. Bungalows exist upon three lines only, but others are greatly required; on one of these lines, between Bangalore and Bellary, although bungalows have been erected, the road being almost impracticable for carts, is avoided by travellers who preferring reaching Bellary by the new line to Bangalore, all of which lies within the limits of the Mysore territory, with the exception of thirteen miles within the Bellary District. This answers for reaching Bellary only, but here the traveller to the northward must stop, from want of either roads or bungalows.

Note.—This subject seems to deserve attention on account of the importance of opening the district to European visitors.

Letter from Lieutenant G. W. WALKER, Acting Civil Engineer, 3rd Division, to Captain J. H. BELL, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Department Public Works, dated 3rd June 1854, No. 327.

1. The accompanying copy of a letter to my address from the Collector of Bellary, under date the 27th May, will serve as an introduction and recommendation to the proposal which I have now the honor to lay before the Board, regarding the completion of the roads commenced in Bellary and Kurnool Districts, for the relief of the poor. It is hoped that the necessity for employing the people will soon cease to exist, but the necessity for opening good communications must remain; and the labors of the last few months have formed a nucleus for a system of roads, which should be worked out, if only to prevent the original outlay from proving unproductive; and without bridges and drains, or means of keeping them in repair, the roads already formed cannot be brought into proper use, or stand the traffic and bad weather of a single year.

2. I propose, therefore, that the services of a sufficient number of the Executive Officers and Oaerseers, now employed on the Bellary and Kurnool roads, be made available for such a term of years as may probably suffice for the execution of all the main roads that are required for the traffic of a country, their extent and division into road districts being first considered. I proceed to give a rough estimate of the time and money to be expended on them. My plan involves the continued employment of all the Officers now on the works, excepting the two who have been placed at our disposal by the General Commanding the Division, and of 20 of the Assistant Overseers, each Officer to have charge of from 100 to 135 miles with two or three Overseers under him, according to

the extent of his charge. The following list shows their proposed distribution over all the lines it is desirable to open; and the accompanying map, coloured according to districts, will show their adaptations to the wants of the country :—

BELLARY ROAD DISTRICTS.

No. I.—*Allur.*

1 Officer—Captain Palmer, and 3 Overseers.

	Miles.	
1. Bellary to Adony*	45	130
2. Madverum to Auspry*	40	*miles.*
3. Allur to Kodamur*	45	

No. II.—*Gooty.*

1 Officer—Captain Bisset, and 3 Overseers.

	Miles.	
1. Auspry to Pamudy*	45	
2. Gooty to Kurnool frontier	20	
3. Peapully to Banagampully frontier	28	138
4. Cuddapah frontier near Yadkee to Goondacul (Nellore and Bellary road)	45	*miles.*

No. III.—*Annantapoor.*

1 Officer—Ensign Johnson, and 2 Overseers.

	Miles.	
1. Pamudy to Mysore frontier*	90	135
2. Dumpetta to Coodairy*	45	*miles.*

No. IV.—*Bellary.*

1 Officer—Captain Devereux, and 2 Overseers.

	Miles.	
1. [Coodairy to Bellary]	50	100
2. Goontacul to Bellary	35	*miles.*
3. Herahall to Bellary	15	

No. V.—*Hospett.*

1 Officer—Ensign Hankin, and 2 Overseers.

	Miles.	
1. [Bellary to Humpasauger]	60	
2. Toranagull to Ramandroog	20	100
3. Ramandroog to Hospett	15	*miles.*
4. [Darojee Branch]	5	

No. VI.—*Hurpunhully.*

1 Officer—Lieutenant Jones, and 3 Overseers.

	Miles.	
1. Yettenahully by Soondoor to Koodleghee, Hurpunhully and Hurryhur	75	125
2. Havanoor on Toombudra to Hurpunhully	25	*miles.*
3. Havanoor to Humpasauger through Hoovenhudgally	25	

APPENDIX XXVI.

KURNOOL ROAD DISTRICTS.

No. I.—*Gazooputty.*

1 Officer—Lieutenant Harrington, and 2 Overseers.

		Miles.	
1. Maducopoor to Chagulmurry	35	100 *miles.*	
2. Do. to Bauganpully	45		
3. Do. to Panesem*	20		

No. II.—*Kurnool.*

1 Officer—Captain Gill, and 2 Overseers.

	Miles.	
1. Kurnool to Paveum*	40	100 *miles.*
2. Do. to Codameor*	20	
3. Do. to Dhoni frontier	40	

Of these lines, I have marked with star those of which the great mass of earth-work will be completed by the labor already employed on them. Others there are for which large estimates have been sanctioned, viz., the roads from Bellary to Coodairy, Humpasauger, Herahall, and Darojee, marked by brackets. The rest require remark and explanation of the cause of their selection.

No. 3 in the 2nd Bellary District, and No. 2 of the 1st Kurnool District together form the direct approach to the Mudy Cunnamah Ghaut from Bellary and Gooty, and in saying that I say enough, for the line No. 4 in the 2nd Bellary District is intended to supply a great desideratum of that country, viz., a direct communication with the coast of Nellore by continuing the line already sanctioned (in the 2nd Division) from Nellore by Dorenal Pass to Podatoor, due west through Jummalamudgoo and Yadakee to Gooty and Bellary. What with this line, the Trunk Road by Anantapoor, and the railway, the direct Cuddapah line will be entirely superseded; on which subject, and the substitution of one bridge over the Pennaur at Chennoor, for three over the Pennaur, the Chithravathy, and the Paupagnee, I hope the Civil Engineer, 2nd Division, has already laid my views before the Board.

Dumpetta to Coodairy (No. 2 of 3rd District), and Coodairy to Bellary (No. 1 of 4th) are a portion of the Trunk Road from Madras, and as Rupees 57,400 are already sanctioned for expenditure on the latter half, it is high time to bring forward a point which I consider of the utmost importance as connected with it; I mean the site for a bridge across the Huggry river. That stream running due north and south divides the district into halves, the communication between which, when the river is down, is totally suspended. The roads from Hydrabad, Kurnool, Cumbum, Nellore, Cuddapah, and Madras all cross it at present at three points, of which Mokay and Roopungoody are 15 miles apart, and Purmadavenhully is midway, 7½ miles distant from either. In my opinion one bridge at the latter place will suit all those lines of traffic perfectly, at the cost of a very moderate circuit to the upper and lower lines of road; and it will be of more value to the traffic of the country than any similar work that could be named in the division. I urgently beg that some attention may be paid to this subject, and orders passed upon it, authorizing the diversion of Adony and Anantapoor roads to the best bridge site near Purmadavenhully. Indeed it would be excellent policy to authorize collection of materials for a bridge at that site when determined, in anticipation of a plan and esimate for its construction being forwarded.

Note.—The Acting Civil Engineer and Superintendent of Roads are planning the diversion of the Anantapoor or Trunk Road here proposed. Instead of altering the Adony line, it seems best to make a cross road from it to the site of the proposed bridge.

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Torungull to Ramandroog (No. 2 of 5) is meant in substitution of the direct road to Bellary, for which the estimates are now before the Board. It involves a considerable reduction from their amount, as it is only seven miles from Yettenahully to the Dharwar road, while the distance of new road, proposed from Yettenahully to Bellary, is 22 miles; one of the bungalows, moreover, which were asked for on the road to Ramandroog from Bellary will not be required when the Corting bungalow on the Dharwar road becomes available for the first stage; all the people acquainted with the district or the droog, that I have consulted on this subject, are so unanimous as to the proposed change of line, that I am surprised it was not recommended long ago.

The communication between the western talooks and Bellary being almost entirely cut off by the Ramanamala hills, two of the lines composing Road District No. 6, have, partly for their object, the remedying of this defect by their conveyance from the Mysore and Dharwar frontiers at Hurryhur and Havanoor to Hurpunhully, and their continuance thence through Koodleghee and the Soondoor valley to Yettenahully before mentioned. They will be useful feeders to the important roads leading through the Nuggur and Dharwar countries to the Canara ports below the Agoomby and Dewamunny ghauts, a small branch from Humpasauger to Havanoor completes the road circuit.

The total length of main roads provided for in this scheme is for Bellary 720 miles, and for Kurnool 200 miles, and less than these will not compose anything like a complete system, adequate to the wants of the districts. Till estimates are prepared along the whole of the lines it would be impossible to give a correct idea of the entire cost, but perhaps an approximation to the amount may be made by a calculation like the following :—

Estimate.

		Rs.
8 Officers,	at Rs. 200	1,600
8 Writers,	at ,, 30	240
20 Overseers,	at ,, 60	1,200
20 Maistries,	at ,, 30	600
20 Cooly Maistries,	at Rs. 13	260
1 Clerk of the works attached to the Civil Engineer,	... ...	100
Superintendence per month		400
Supposing each Overseer to get through Rupees 1,000 work of bridge and drain work per month. Then labor and materials monthly		20,000
And for repairing and gradually bringing roads into order, fifty permanent trained Coolies to each Overseer, at 4 Rupees each per month, gives earth work 20 × 5 × 4		4,000
Total monthly expenditure, ...		28,000

or say Rupees 30,000, at which rate allowing Rupees 1,500 a mile average for the roads and lesser bridges (excluding such streams as the Huggry, Pennaur, and Hindry), 46 months, or say four years, would furnish the country with good communications, at a cost of about 14½ lacs. I may be much out as regards the sum, total, and time of getting through the work, but I cannot be far wrong in recommending an outlay of about 3½ lacs a year until the 920 miles are completed. The money can hardly be expended more quickly with discretion in the first year or two, but as people are raised

for the work by good pay and constant employ, and the Superintendents and their Subordinates get more, in fact, at their duties, the expenditure may be quickened to advantage, and with a saving of the cost of superintendence.

I intend to proceed next week on a tour of inspection of the roads from the Hydrabad frontier down to that of Mysore, and afterwards to complete my acquaintance with those of the western talooks; as soon also as the Surveyors of the division are at liberty from other work, I shall have sections of all rivers and plans and estimates of bridging them sent in. In the meanwhile, I trust we shall receive the support of the Board to the proposed measures, and, through their recommendation, permission to commence the necessary arrangements for organizing a permanent Road Department as soon as the present temporary works for relief of the poor are happily brought to an end.

Letter from Mr. E. MALTBY, Member of the Board of Revenue, to Government, (dated Bellary District, Gooty, 13th November 1854).

In continuation of my report of the 10th ultimo, I have the honor to address you on the following two branches of the enquiry entrusted to me,—1*st*, the extent to which the failure of the rains in the past year caused distress and pressed upon the resources of this district; and, 2*ndly*, the result of the measures which have been taken to give employment to the suffering people.

2. The late Fusli 1263 was marked by a sudden and complete cessation of the North-East monsoon at an unusually early period before the crops on the dry lands were brought to maturity, and the tanks and irrigation channels had received their customary supply. The early cultivation had also been previously impeded by the scantiness of the showers in June and July. The grain harvests were in consequence universally deficient, and prices rose to a height which caused much distress throughout the Presidency, and induced Government to undertake public works for the employment of the poorer classes in many districts.

3. The failure of the monsoon was most conspicuous in Bellary, and, unfortunately, this province had sustained previous disasters which diminished its means of meeting a deficient harvest. The damage done to its great tanks and other irrigation works by the storm of May 1851, had only just been repaired; and in Fusli $\frac{1262}{1852\text{-}3}$ the crops were extensively injured by unseasonable falls of rain.* In his Jummabundy Report for that year the Collector observed,—"In some respects the season was an extraordinary one, inasmuch as heavy rain fell in January, some in February and March, which was unseasonable and injured the crops very much on the ground and caused some alarm." The rains in September and October also were too abundant, "causing considerable damage by the bursting of tanks and overflowing of rivers." The cholum crop, which furnishes the principal food of the district, was especially injured by the unusual fall of rain in January, when that produce is ready to be reaped; and the extent to which the general harvest fell short became afterwards apparent in the small stock of old grain which the district contained, to aid in supplying the wants of the following disastrous year (1263) to which this report relates.

4. The registers of rain kept in the different talooks* show that the average of the fall throughout the district was only 9½ inches in Fuslee 1263, while it had been 28½ inches in the preceding years. In the most favored talooks (Kodecondah) in the southern frontier, the fall did not exceed 16 inches, while in the six talooks where the greatest distress arose it averaged only 6½ inches, decreasing in some instances to 3½ inches. As pluviometers have only recently been introduced into the

* Bellary.
Adony.
Goollem.
Punchapollem.
Gooty.
Raidroog.

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	Inches.	Centums.
* 1841	... 22	... 8
1842	... 13	... 2
1843	... 19	... 44
1844	... 17	... 90
1845	... 8	... 85
1846	... 19	... 40
1847	... 18	... 60
1848	... 15	... 18
1849	... 25	... 5
1850	... 19	... 65
1851	... 14	... 95
1852	... 30	... 35
1853	... 6	... 45

Collector's Department, I obtained from the Garrison Hospital at Bellary a copy of the rain register for the last 13 years from which I have extracted the marginal* statement showing greatly the fall from June to December, upon which the agricultural operations of the district depend, was below the ordinary amount in the year under review.

5. This marked failure of the monsoon caused early alarm, and in his letter to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th December last, the Collector reported that the harvest in the entire district could only be expected to yield $\frac{7}{16}$ths of an ordinary crop, while in the six talooks which I have already specified as the chief scene of the distress, the yield could not be calculated at more than $\frac{5}{16}$ths. The Collector further represented that the price of grain had already doubled, that the ryots were beginning to emigrate with their cattle, and that the poorer orders must starve or seek subsistence in pillage when their present small stock of food was exhausted, unless Government furnished them with employment on the roads and other public works.

6. As the season advanced no change took place to brighten this gloomy picture: the early months of this year passed so entirely without rain† that grass and forage of every description failed, and the ryots had to sustain a new and most heavy loss in the destruction of their cattle which, in the dry talooks especially, form the main portion of their wealth and are essential to their prosperity. Mr. Pelly calculates that one-third‡ of the cattle throughout the district have perished, and this computation appears to me moderate, as the Mysore authorities estimated the loss in that territory on a similar scale, although the season was there less unfavourable. In the northern and central talooks of this district, which consist of plains of the cotton or black soil, and suffered most from the drought, it would not, I believe, exceed the truth to say that four-fifths of the cattle have perished. In some villages they have entirely disappeared, and in the towns the loss extended to the more wealthy members of the community in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining fodder even at unprecedented prices. Besides the direct loss of capital which thus fell upon the ryots, this calamity tended to raise the markets by increasing the difficulty and expense of importing grain from other districts and creating an impression that the cultivation of the ensuing season would necessarily be limited in extent, and had thus an unfavourable effect in augmenting the general distress.

† According to the register kept at the Garrison Hospital in Bellary Cantonment, not a drop of rain fell from 1st January to the end of April. The fall between the 1st May and the end of September was limited to 2¾ inches. In October nearly 10 inches fell.

‡ Or 250,190 head which, at prices varying from Rupees 10 to 3, give an estimated loss of Rupees 13,57,526.

7. The pressure of the famine upon the people, as shown in the prices of grain, has occupied my attention; and although the official lists published periodically in the *Fort St. George Gazette* have made Government acquainted with the state of the markets in this and other districts, it seems proper that I should offer a few remarks on the subject. Premising that cholum is the chief food of the people in the northern and central talooks where the scarcity pressed most severely, and raghy in the southern, I find from a Statement sent to the Board of Revenue on the 1st November 1852, and from the Collector's Report upon the commutation rates of the district, dated 22nd November 1853, that the average prices of the principal grains during the ten years, from $\frac{1251}{1842}$ to $\frac{1260}{1851}$, were as follows :—

	Paddy.		Cholum.		Raghy.		Coolty or Horse gram.		
	Per garce.	Measures per R.	Per garce.	Measures per R.	Per garce.	Measures per R.	Per garce.	Measures per R.	The measure here alluded to, is the one in use at Madras.
	R. A.		R. A.		R. A.		R. A.		
Average price	85 3	38	86 9	39	78 15	42	98 3	34	

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In Bellary town, the prices during the present year have risen to the height shown in the following table :—

Month.	Paddy.		Cholum		Raghy.		Coolty.	
	Per garce.	Measures per R.	Per garce.	Measures per R.	Per garce.	Measures per R.	Per garce.	Measures per R.
	R. A.		R. A.		R. A.		R. A.	
January... ...	118 8	26	177 12	18	145 7	22	188 4	17
February ...	106 10	30	208 11	15	150 0	21	200 0	16
March	106 11	30	200 0	16	145 7	22	200 0	16
April	104 6	31	192 0	17	133 5	24	218 0	15
May	111 0	29	200 0	16	160 0	20	218 0	15
June	141 2	23	240 0	14	184 10	18	266 0	12
July	141 2	23	251 0	13	191 0	17	304 0	11
August... ..	141 3	23	252 10	13	192 0	17	300 0	11
September ...	141 3	23	240 0	14	184 10	18	282 0	11
Average ...	123 8	26½	218 0	15	165 4	20	241 8	13

I have selected Bellary as being the principal market in that part of the district where the distress was greatest, and have shown the rates of four descriptions of grain to illustrate the general effects of the scarcity. It must, however, be kept in recollection that cholum is the food of the great body of the people in Bellary and in the adjoining talooks. Raghy is brought mainly from the southern districts, and rice, which is here not abundant, is confined to the richer orders and people of the Tamil caste who come to Bellary for Military and other employment. It is also proper to observe that from the favorable situation of Bellary upon a good road by which grain could be brought from the adjacent Mysore territory, it was generally better supplied than the other distressed talooks. The marginal Statement illustrates this point and will show that the Bellary market has been selected as exhibiting the average and not the greatest pressure of the scarcity.

Comparative price of Cholum per Madras garce.

Talook.	July.	Aug.	Sept.
Bellary	251	252	240
Adony	304	278	256
Goollem...	282	252	252
Punchapollem ...	266	256	266

8. It thus appears that, at the commencement of the year while the crops were being reaped, the price of cholum, the principal food of the people, had already doubled, and as the season advanced, it continued to rise until it may be said to have been triple the ordinary rate in the months of June, July, August, and September. On referring to previous striking years of dearth, I find that in Fuslee 1248 the average price of cholum per garce was Rupees 150-3. 1232 and in 1233 when a drought* prevailed, "over every part of the Province beyond all comparison worse than any that had ever been known," the average price throughout the year was only Rupees 139-11, though, under a panic caused by the purchases of merchants of other districts, it

* See Collector's Jummabundy Report for Fusli 1233, paragraph 3.

rose for a short period to Rupees 200. It has been shown that in the present year, when the drought succeeded a previous deficient harvest, the price of cholum has averaged Rupees 218 from January to September in the northern talooks, while, in the four last months it has been at a height which appears to equal the price of food in Guntoor* in the disastrous. Fusli $\frac{1242}{1832\text{-}33}$ when 200,000 of its population are calculated to have perished.

* My information on this point is, at this moment, limited to two articles in the Madras Journal of Literature and Science, Nos. 23 and 30, written by J. F. Thomas, Esq., and Captain Best, evidently upon official data from which raghy appears to have been Rupees 197, and cholum Rupees 233 per garce

9. Before quitting the subject of prices, I may observe that this district furnishes a fresh instance of the manner in which a want of cheap carriage frequently augments local distress by preventing supplies of grain being brought from neighbouring places. Thus at Kodecondah and in the southern talooks where, in the latter rains were not so scanty, and the vicinity of a fertile part of Mysore afforded supplies, the prices of grain have been generally 80 per cent. less than at Bellary—a distance not exceeding 90 miles. The advantages which railways will confer on the country in equalizing and cheapening the price of food, and diminishing distress in localities where the monsoon fails, thus become conspicuously apparent.

10. Such was the emergency under which it was found necessary to give employment to the poorer classes of this district to save them from starvation, and some contingent circumstances tended to augment the local distress. The failure of the monsoon extended to the territory ceded by the Nizam north of Toombudra and led to an influx of persons seeking food and work until the sanction of the Supreme Government was obtained for employing them on a continuation of the road from Bellary towards Hyderabad through the Raichore Dooab. The people had also a greater difficulty than usual in finding employment. The ordinary harvest work was much diminished, and the failure of the cotton crop in particular took away employment to which the poor were accustomed to look. The same cause injured also the small weavers and thread-spinners, and all mercantile operations were contracted by the difficulty of obtaining carriage which rose to triple and quadruple its ordinary rate. To increase the difficulties of the year the failure of rain in June and July destroyed the hope that a large portion of the distressed community would then be able to find employment in the fields.

Collector's Report to the Board of Revenue Department Public Works, 31st January 1854; and Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 2nd May 1854, communicating the instructions of Supreme Government to the Hyderabad authorities.

11. The state of the district was accordingly brought to the notice of the authorities by the Collector as soon as the failure of the monsoon was decisive, and a calculation could be made of the extent to which the crops would perish and the cultivation prove deficient. In his Report Mr. Pelly pointed out that the high price of grain already caused distress, and that much alarm had spread through the district in consequence of the poorer orders having commenced robberies. He therefore requested authority to entertain extra peons to strengthen the Police and guard the Talook Treasuries; as also to give immediate employment to from 1 to 2,000 persons on road work in the northern talooks, besides commencing a line through the Sub-Collector's Division, and to distribute Tuccavy to such ryots as were willing to clear out old wells and cultivate under them. These measures were approved and directed to be carried into execution without delay, and on the recommendation of the Board of Revenue three European Officers and eight Overseers were assigned to aid the Collector's Department in superintending the lines of road to be undertaken.

Collector's Report to Board of Revenue, of 22nd November and 26th and 29th December 1853.
The Collector estimated that the land revenue which in 1262 rather exceeded 22 lacs would fall off to the amount of 7 lacs, in consequence of a diminished cultivation and withered crops; and that 4 lacs of this loss would occur in the 6 talooks where the distress was greatest. He further calculated that, according to the Food Returns, 6 per cent. of the population, or 75,000 persons, would be destitute and require support for 6 months, or till the rain expected in June.

Proceedings, Board of Revenue, 1st December 1853.
Extract, Min. Con., 7th idem.

12. But as the distress increased measures of relief were required on a larger scale, and the Collector accordingly requested authority for furnishing the people with more extended employment. He calculated that from the then existing appearances, 118,000 persons might require assistance for five months, at a monthly expenditure of 4 lacs; and though he hoped that a smaller outlay would prove sufficient, he pointed out that any delay or failure in the May and June rains would seriously increase and prolong the distress. As it was not practicable to undertake masonry works in consequence of a want of materials, carriage, and skilled laber, he proposed to employ the people in making roads, and suggested nine lines, including the trunk line from Bellary, *via* Anantapore to Madras, which belongs to the Department of the Superintendent of Roads. The Collector detailed the Native Establishment which he proposed to entertain for superintending the coolies, and requested the services of some Officers and European Overseers, besides some subordinates of the Medical Department, and a supply of Commissariat tools and tents. The Collector's suggestions were approved, and authority given to him in the most liberal spirit for carrying out his plans of furnishing employment to the people as far as should be found actually necessary, though a hope was expressed that the expenditure which was thus to fall on the State would prove less heavy than was anticipated. In their remarks on this occasion, the Board of Revenue expressed their approval of the arrangements which the Collector, with no assistance but that of his ordinary establishment, had hitherto made for employing the distressed laboring population.

Collector, to Board of Revenue, Public Works Department, 18th January 1854.
Collector, to Board of Revenue. Public Works Department, 18th February.
Proceedings of Board of Revenue, Public Works Department, 27th February.
Extract from Min. Con., 14th March.

13. Unfortunately as the season advanced, no improvement took place. The rains which ordinarily fall in June and July, and enable early cultivation to be carried on, failed; and the Collector had to continue his reports that food was increasing in price, and that additional numbers of distressed people flocked to the roads for employment. To exemplify the distress he mentioned, in his letter of the 1st July, that cholum, the common food of the people, was sold at 14 seers* a rupee, instead of 50, in the northern talooks, and that 81,000 persons were then employed on charity roads. At the end of July the expenditure had amounted to Rupees 10,19,832, and the largeness of outlay and the prospective continuance of the distress made the Collector anxious to receive renewed instructions for his guidance. He was consequently informed that he was empowered to continue giving employment to the needy population under his arrangements then in force, which appeared to Government "judicious, and to have answered the object in view." But as a subsequent letter from the Collector still reported the absence of rain, and expressed his fears that an additional outlay of 16 lacs, at the rate of 4 lacs per mensem, would be required until the end of the year, Government deemed it proper that a Member of the Board should be sent to the district to relieve the Collector of a part of his responsibility in so unexpected and pressing an emergency, by giving his opinion on the state and prospects of the district, and consulting with the Collector and Civil Engineer about the most advantageous method of employing the people until the distress ceased, and the best means to be taken to guard against a future similar calamity. This continued drought, which the Collector had to describe, had its influence on the adjoining districts. Thus, in his Season Reports of August, although the Agent at Kurnool mentioned that prospects there were generally favorable, he added that his villages along the Bellary frontier wanted rain, and that prices had again risen "in consequence of an expected scarcity in the Bellary District." The Cuddapah Collector at the same time reported that prices were rising and prospects gloomy, and from a return of the

* This seer is equal to two-thirds of Madras paddy.

Extract from Min. Con., 25th July 1854.
Extract from Proceedings, Board of Revenue, Public Works Department, 3rd August 1854.

Extract Min. Con., 2nd September 1854.

cultivation which he has since sent me, I find that at the end of September its extent falls below that of the preceding by 3½ lacs of Rupees in consequence of an insufficiency of rain.

14. Instructions were accordingly given me to proceed to Bellary; and in the first part of this report I described the state in which I found the province on my arrival, and mentioned the principal improvements which seem to be required in its irrigation works and roads to guard from the effects of future seasons of drought. On that occasion and in my recent letter of the 24th October, I was happy to be able to report that some favorable rain had at last fallen, and so materially benefited the district, that the people to whom employment is given had decreased to 47,118, and that it will be apparently possible to stop the charity roads at the end of November. Instead of 16 lacs which the Collector contemplated as the probable additional expenditure in his letter of the 14th August, I now trust that the outlay from the 1st of that month until the closing of the charity roads, will not exceed one-fourth of that sum.

15. I now proceed to offer a few observations on the mode in which employment has been given to the people, the numbers which have been employed at various times, the expenditure incurred, and the supposed value of the work performed.

16. I have already observed that, in consequence of a want of materials and carriage, it was found impracticable to undertake bridges or other works of masonry, and that the people were therefore employed in earth-work, chiefly in making roads, which occupation, besides being a public benefit to the district, was best suited to untrained laborers, and afforded the most easy means of giving employment to large masses of indigent people within a moderate distance of their villages. In Bellary, however, some of the poor were advantageously employed in improving the pettah and town with the approval* of the Board of Revenue, and on the application of the General Commanding the Division to which the Board gave their sanction,† the Collector afterwards placed 2,000 to 3,000 of the destitute poor at the disposal of the Military authorities for employment in the Cantonment. The useful works upon which they were employed are enumerated in a letter (enclosure) from the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, which also shows that the principal tank, upon which the town and Cantonment depend for drinking water, has been cleared out at an expense of Rupees 9,468; although a similar work could not have been performed in an ordinary year at the usual rate of wages for less than Rupees 16,161, and that a lasting benefit has thus been conferred on the station at a saving of Rupees 6,695. With this exception, and small improvements to the streets of the town of Gooty and Adony, the people have been employed on the lines of road shown in the map which accompanied the first part of this report. The details of these lines could not be at present furnished, and will be forwarded hereafter through the prescribed channel when their accounts are closed. I shall, therefore, limit myself on this occasion to giving a general statement of the number of people employed, and the total monthly expenditure until the end of September.

* Proceedings of Board of Revenue, Department Public Works, 13th April 1854.

† Proceedings of Board of Revenue, Department Public Works, 25th May 1854.

17. The Returns of the first week in each month show that the number of people on the charity roads, has been as follows:—

January	...	Rs. 8,766
February	...	,, 16,017
March	...	,, 22,279
April	...	,, 48,299
May	...	,, 77,862
June	...	,, 93,092
July	...	,, 97,554
August	...	,, 77,768
September	...	,, 65,869

The highest number reached was in the second week of July, when it amounted to 100,599, being 8 per cent. of the population of the entire district. In the talooks where the

distress was greatest, the per-centage of the poor employed bore the following proportion to the number of their inhabitants :—

Bellary	... 16 per cent.
Adony	... 17 ,,
Goollem	... 19 ,,
Punchapollem	... 16½ ,,
Gooty	... 28 ,,

18. On comparing the above Return with the Statement of monthly prices given in paragraph 7, it will be observed that the number of applicants for assistance increased with much regularity in proportion as food became dearer, and the rasult has borne out the opinion of the Collector who, in his Report* to the Board on the probable deficiency of the harvest and the amount of old grain in store, calculated that 75,000 or 6 per cent. of the population might require temporary relief. The applicants for employment have consisted of all castes and occupations, and comprised, in many instances, cultivators of the better class with their families. The women and the boys have always exceeded the men who have more varied means of finding employment, and in September their relative numbers were as five to three. The Returns for that month show that nearly one-fourth of the men then employed contributed directly to the public revenue, the rest were weavers, farm-laborers, and common coolies.

* Dated 29th December 1853.

19. At first the Collector, with the aid of his Assistants and Native Establishment, had to arrange for commencing the charity roads, and establish a system† for employing with some degree of regularity the large numbers of indigent applicants who sought relief. The arrangements made by the Collector for the purpose were reported to the Board of Revenue, and met entire approval. With the aid of the Civil Engineer's Establishment and the Maramut Superintendent parts of lines were marked out, and the people set to work under the superintendence of the Assistant Collectors, of whom Mr. C. R. Pelly was the most active, and the Tahsildars aided by a temporary establishment. The coolies (male and female) were divided into companies of 600 individuals, which again were sub-divided into five gangs of 120 each. The establishment entertained for each such company, was as follows:—

† See enclosure 2.

Proceedings of Board of Revenue, Department Public Works, 27th February 1854, paragraph 2.

1 Mootsuddy or Accountant, at 8 Rs. ...	Rs.	8
5 Darogahs, at 7 Rs. each	,,	35
10 Kolcars, at 4 Rs. each	,,	40
Total	Rs...	83

Its monthly cost amounted to Rupees 83; and there were also appointed, in some instances, Native Overseers or Peshkars, on salaries ranging from Rupees 15 downwards, to assist the Tahsildars.

20. When the seven Officers‡ who were appointed to be Superintendents arrived, they relieved the Collector's Department of the immediate charge of the charity roads. Distances, averaging generally 50 miles, were assigned to each, and within their respective ranges they had entire control over the coolies and the Native temporary Road Establishments under the instructions§ of the Board of Revenue. The payment of coolies and the subordinate road servants devolved entirely upon these Executive Officers, it being arranged that they were to draw on the Collector for such money as they

	Date of arrival.	No. of European Officers under his orders.
‡ Captain Devereux...	14th January	... 6
Major Bisset ...	27th March	... 5
Lieutenant Law ...	9th January	... 6
Ensign Jones ...	11th March	... 3
Captain Palmer ...	16th May	... 4
Ensign Johnson ...	15th May	... 3
Ensign Hankin ...	1 European Overseer latterly.	

‡ Proceedings Board of Revenue, Department Public Works, 16th March 1854.

required from time to time, and to be responsible for its safe custody and disbursement, sending detailed accounts of the expenditure to the Collector and Civil Engineer. In cases of misconduct these Officers were empowered to dismiss their Native Subordinates, and the Collector, while at times communicating to them his wishes either direct or through the Civil Engineer, relied much on their judgment and local information for admitting or rejecting applicants for employment on the roads, and for discharging the least indigent of the coolies as the pressure of the distress abated. Detailed instructions* were drawn out for the guidance of these Executive Officers by the Civil Engineer, Major Henderson.

* See Enclosure 3.

21. But it seems proper here to explain that in some remote places, distant from the main lines of road where it was found necessary to give assistance to the very poor, the arrangements for the purpose have continued under the superintendence of the Collector and his establishment. This, out of the 47,118 coolies still employed on the 14th ultimo, 4,143 are under the inspection of different Tahsildars controlled by the Collector, as shown in the marginal statement. Measures will now be taken to stop all this description of work, leaving such laborers as are in absolute want to apply for employment to the nearest Road Superintendents.

Bellary Talook	240
Adony do.	300
Goollem do.	1,160
Punchapollem Talook ...	1,142
Raidroog do.	821
Dhurmaverum do.	480
	4,143

22. At first, various modes were tried of paying the coolies. In some instances, the payments were made daily, in others bi-weekly, and in others weekly. It was, however, found that much difficulty and loss of time arose from attempting frequent payments to such large bodies of people, and the practice now is to pay them at the conclusion of each week. The Mootsuddy or Accountant appointed to each company of 600 coolies keep a book in which the name of every individual is written, and entries are made in it after each morning and evening muster to show the parties' presence or absence. At the end of the week the wages thus found due to each person are added up, the coolies are assembled for payment, and under the orders of the Executive Officers the European or the Native Overseer proceeds down the line paying to each individual the sum entered in the book. In cases of slowness or misconduct the Superintendents impose fines on the coolies, and the amount is deducted from the wages found payable to them.

23. In accordance with the instructions conveyed in your letter of the 23rd ultimo, I enquired of the Road Superintendents if they have been satisfied with the conduct of their Native officials, more especially in that part of their duty which relates to the payment of the laborers, and availed myself of the opportunity to ask if the European Overseers had also given satisfaction and proved equal to the heavy and extensive duties devolving upon them. The correspondence which passed on the occasion forms enclosure 4 to this letter, and gives the following result:—Major Bisset and Captain Devereux, who have had the largest bodies of coolies under them, and had therefore to make much use of Native agency, both express dissatisfaction and state that, notwithstanding repeated dismissals and punishments, petty frauds and irregularities have prevailed. Captain Palmer writes to the same effect; but Lieutenants Jones, Law, and Davies, and Ensigns Johnson and Hankin, do not make similar complaints, though it is to be remarked that these Officers have had more facilities than Major Bisset and Captain Devereux of watching the payment of wages either personally or through their European Overseers. It will be observed that the value of the European Overseers is highly spoken of, and an opinion expressed that the public interests would have been advanced if more servants of this description had been available. Under the want of a sufficient number of these Overseers, Captain

The gangs of coolies have fluctuated much, but stood thus on 1st September—

Major Bisset	18,534
Captain Devereux ...	17,242
,, Palmer... ...	4,355
Lieutenant Law	8,700
Ensign Johnson	5,076
,, Hankin	1,293
Lieutenant Jones	2,096

Lieutenant Davies has only lately been brought from the Kurnool roads, and employed within the Bellary frontier.

Devereux has tried the experiment of appointing tasks to his gang instead of fixing a number of hours for daily work, and states that the result has proved successful. The frauds imputed to the Native officials consist principally of the entry of fictitious names in the cooly register, the levy of fees from the coolies, and the acceptance of small bribes to allow them to be absent or remain idle. To check irregularities, the coolies have received their wages in all possible cases under the eyes of the European Overseers and the Executive Officers.

24. The next part of the subject relates to the wages paid to the coolies until the end of July: the rates per diem,* although occasionally lower, may be said to have been, for men two Annas, for women and children 1¼ Annas;—but as some rain fell in July and enabled cultivation to be carried on in parts of the district, the Collector was anxious to relieve the State from a portion of the heavy expense which had devolved upon it, and prevent any risk of the people giving up their ordinary agricultural occupations for employment on charity roads. Many laborers of the better class were therefore discharged, and an attempt was made to restrict the number of individuals in each family to be employed. But as difficulty was found in carrying out the latter arrangement, it was determined to lower the rates of wages which were consequently fixed as follows:—Men 1¼ Annas—two pice being added when the laborers brought their own tools;—women and children 1 Anna. No children have been admitted who were not able to carry a common basket load of earth. At my suggestion the Collector has since ordered that children are never to receive more than eight pice, and I concur with him that these rates afford a bare subsistence with grain at its present high price, and create no temptation for the people to seek aid from Government when they have other means of earning a livelihood. I learn from the Agent at Kurnool that he has recently made a nearly similar reduction in the wages paid there.

* Working days are here meant. No pay was given for Sundays.

25. The wages which were given at first to the road laborers in Bellary have led to some correspondence, as an expression in one of the Collector's letters caused an impression that the ordinary rates had been increased. Government† therefore called for explanation, observing "that the object being merely to prevent starvation, great care should be used to keep the rates down to what will provide mere subsistence, in order that the people may not be tempted to stay when they can get their work by which they can exist." In reply, the Collector‡ explained that he had not increased the customary rates which are two Annas per idem for a man when food is cheap, but that he had thought it necessary not to diminish them at a time when grain was double its usual price, and a seer of cholum, a man's ordinary food, absorbed one Anna of the wages, out of which he had to support his family as well as himself. This explanation was afterwards referred to by Government when noticing the observations which the Supreme Government§ had recorded under a similar impression that the usual standard of wages had been raised.

† Extract Min. Con., 14th March 1854, paragraph 5.

‡ Collector, to Board of Revenue, Department Public Works, 1st April 1854.

§ Extract Min. Con., 26th June 1854.

26. In the instructions issued to me, my attention is particularly called to this subject, and I feel it therefore incumbent upon me, after giving it much consideration, to express an opinion that it would have been advisable to make, in the first instance, a reduction in the ordinary rate of wages, such as was afterwards carried out. I am not insensible to the Collector's arguments that without a sufficiency of food for themselves and families, the laborers would have been less able to bear daily work and exposure, and his proceedings ‖ were sanctioned by the Board of Revenue as then composed, who expressed a concurrence in his opinion that the rates of hire to be paid to the people "must, to some extent, be regulated by the price of food." It has also been found that, under the reduced rates, crowds have still been ready, such was the distress, to flock to the roads for employment and subsistence. It appears, however, to me essential to

‖ Proceedings, Board of Revenue, Department Public Works, 27th February 1854.

bear in mind that the ordinary rates of wages are fixed in return for an expected amount of labor which is never obtained under circumstances like the present, and that the relief afforded when public works are undertaken to save the people from starvation, is increased by various members of the same family being admitted among the applicants for aid. Although therefore food may be dearer than usual, no solid claim can, in my opinion, be advanced for those rates of wages which were fixed for able-bodied laborers in times when labor is in demand, and as a matter of expediency also, it seems to me necessary to guard against applications from persons not absolutely destitute, and thus diminish any risk of the burden thrown upon the State being increased beyond the actual necessity. To attain this object wages must be somewhat reduced below the usual standard, and it seems to me advisable that this general principle should be kept in view on all similar occasions.

27. The monthly advances from the Collector's Treasury on account of these works, until the end of September, are shown in the following Statement. The total amounts to Rupees, 12,28,270-1-8, and full details of the expenditure will be submitted after the close of the works by the Collector and Civil Engineer, through the prescribed channel :—

	RS.	A.	P.
December 1853...	1,464	2	0
January 1854	14,637	12	8
February ,, ...	59,562	9	2
March ,, ...	61,273	10	7
April ,, ...	1,16,357	3	10
May ,, ...	2,13,269	7	7
June ,, ...	2,66,999	9	9
July ,, ...	2,86,314	5	5
August ,, ...	1,35,370	12	3
September ,, ...	73,040	8	7
Total ...	12,28,270	1	8

In examining the main heads of this outlay, I find that the cost of the superintending agency, European and Native, has been 5 per cent.

28. In estimating the value of the work performed, my principal authority is the Acting Civil Engineer, Lieutenant Walker,* who, under the instructions of the Board of Revenue, inspected the roads and made a detailed report upon their value, after describing the data upon which his calculations were based. Lieutenant Walker valued the roads at Rupees 1,760 per mile in the black cotton ground, and Rupees 550 in the red soil. At this estimation the 300 miles of road then completed, omitting masonry drains and bridges, amounted in value to Rupees 4,43,300.

* Lieutenant Walker, Acting Civil Engineer, 3rd Division, to Board of Revenue, 10th August 1854.

29. But as a portion of the above roads, equivalent to about 45 miles, are within the Kurnool frontier, and considerable progress has been effected since the date of Lieutenant Walker's report, I have made inquiries regarding the amount of work performed in the Bellary District itself up to the end of September. The result shows that 284 miles of road were then completed (bridges and drains omitted), 46 miles in an unfinished state and 42 miles lately commenced. From want of exact information regarding the portions of these lines which traverse black and red soils, I can only offer an approximate opinion of their value ; but it appears to me that they ought not to be valued at a less sum than the 300 miles of finished road mentioned in Lieutenant Walker's report. Adding to that amount Rupees 30,000 upon a rough calculation on account of improvements in Bellary town and Cantonment, the total value of the work performed is Rupees 4,73,300. But in estimating the value of these roads one material point must not be overlooked, although I have not at present the means of representing its value in money. By

rapidity of execution 300 miles of road, which would otherwise have occupied several seasons, have been suddenly opened to the commerce of the country, and the gain of a single year in obtaining such an advantage is of no ordinary importance.

30. Comparing the above sum of Rupees 4,73,300 with the expenditure up to the same date, Rupees 12,28,270-1-8, it will be observed that the cost of these roads has been as $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 of what it would have been if they had been constructed in an ordinary season with a choice of skilled labor and a superintending establishment proportioned in strength to the number of work-people employed. This result exhibits a very important improvement since the commencement of operations when the outlay and the value of the work performed are calculated as 5 to 1, and will, I trust, be satisfactory to Government in reference to the remarks contained in Minutes of Consultation of the 12th April last, paragraph 1. Works carried on during an emergency like the present, must always be executed at a great disadvantage. Crowds of starving persons, many of them utterly unaccustomed to handle a pickaxe or spade, such as weavers and other artisans, had to be suddenly employed in road-making when no means of adequate superintendence were at hand; and the expense of the work has been increased by the impossibility of obtaining any carriage, so that all the materials required for use, gravel, sand, or earth-stones, for the rough drains and water for tamping had all to be brought by hand. In the commencement especial difficulty was felt, but gradually order and regularity were established, and the people became accustomed to the work. The arrival of the Road Superintendents, with their European Overseers, increased the means of effective superintendence, although not to the extent that could have been desired, and under these advantages and a reduction in the rates of wages, the cost of the roads has undergone important diminution. It will be observed that, according to Major Henderson's calculation (Enclosure 3, paragraphs 1 and 6) an European Overseer was required for every gang of 1,200 coolies, and an Executive Officer for four such gangs, or for 4,800 men. But in consequence of the unexpected augmentation of the distress when the rains again failed in May, June, and July, the Executive Officers have had to employ gangs of 20,000 and 27,000, with at most 6 European Overseers to aid them.

Report of Major Henderson, Civil Engineer, to Board, dated 10th March 1854.

31. I am happy to be able to mention that, since my last reports on the subject, the season has continued favorable; and as many of the people will soon find employment in gathering the early crops, arrangements will be made for bringing the charity roads to a close at the end of the present month, in the expectation that Government will sanction their gradual completion on estimate, for which plans have been submitted, and thus enable some of the poorest classes still to find employment. The total expenditure which will have fallen on the State in relieving the population from starvation, can therefore now be calculated with accuracy at about $13\frac{3}{4}$ lacs; the advances from the Collector's Treasury in October having consisted of Rupees 1,03,708-5,* and the expenditure in November not being expected to exceed Rupees 50,000.

* The decrease in the number of coolies employed made the actual outlay in October less than in September, but the advances drawn by the Road Superintendents from the Collector's Treasury are not always expended in the month in which they are debited in the Collector's Accounts.

32. The outlay thus incurred amounts undoubtedly to a heavy sum, but I feel a firm conviction that the measures sanctioned by Government have been all expedient as they were liberal and humane. A large province has been preserved from anarchy and starvation, and instead of the extensive loss of life, property, and future revenue, which must otherwise have occurred, its population has been preserved to cultivate the lands and add to the future resources of the State. Nor is the expenditure in the present year to be regarded as simply a gratuitous one. The circulation of such a sum at a season of distress had a beneficial influence on the general industry and revenue of the province, and the construction of such important lines of road, if duly maintained in order, must be of the highest advantage to its future prosperity.

33. It has been satisfactory to me to find that, except during visitations of cholera which were occasionally severe, no unusual mortality has occurred in the district, which I attribute to the prudent care with which measures were taken to furnish the people with means of subsistence before their health was weakened and diseases introduced by privation and unwholesome diet. Another gratifying result of these timely measures has been the preservation of order and suppression of crime. In the commencement of the distress some of the suffering poor were driven to acts of robbery, and much public alarm was felt; but when the means of subsistence were offered by employment on public works, order and security returned, the people gladly availed themselves of the honest livelihood thus held out to them, and have generally exhibited patience under their losses, and a ready obedience to their employers. This result is doubtlessly much owing to the care with which they have been guarded from all harsh treatment, and the laudatory remarks of Major Henderson on this point (Enclosure 3, final paragraph) appear to me well merited. In this year of distress the Police Returns* from January to August show on the whole a diminution of offences against property, though a slight increase took place in robberies by open violence and on the highway. The population of the district amounts to 1,229,599 souls, and the only addition which has been made to the ordinary Police consists of the 454 temporary Peons, whose employment was sanctioned by the orders of Government, dated the 9th December 1853 and 25th August last.

	Cases.
* Total robberies, thefts, in 1853	762
Take of above for 8 months, or two-thirds of the year	508
Total robberies and thefts in 1854, till August, or for 8 months	464

	1853.	1854.
Gang robberies	150	155
Highway robberies	51	79

34. In conclusion, I will only observe that if the prices of grain during the past four months (See ante paragraphs 7 and 8) are admitted to show that the dearth in this district has at all resembled the distressing famine in Guntoor in 1832, the difference in the result under the late liberal and beneficient measures of Government is most striking. In Guntoor 200,000 perished or emigrated out of a population of 500,000; and omitting all private losses of property, crops, and cattle, this disappearance of the population caused a falling off in the revenue which, in 1842, was estimated to amount to 66 lacs, while it was expected that 45 more (making in all 111 lacs) must be incurred before the cultivation of the district could regain its former level. In this district the people have been saved to add to the future resources of the State, so that the loss† in direct revenue will, I trust, be limited to 9¾ lacs if the ensuing seasons are of an ordinary character, and the outlay of 13¾ lacs, which has been made in improving the communications of the district, may be confidently expected to have a most important result in increasing its future prosperity. On the moral effect of the liberal measures sanctioned by Government on this emergency, I shall not presume to dilate, though the spectacle of thousands rescued from starvation, and a large province passing through such a trial in orderly tranquillity, cannot but have made a powerful and beneficial impression on the public mind.

	Rupees.
† Decrease in Fusli 1262	5,76,475
Probable decrease from diminished cultivation owing to loss of cattle in the next years	4,00,000
Total	9,76,475

35. As a description of the road work performed will be most satisfactory to Government when coming from its professional Officers, I have not entered into any details on this subject; but it seems proper to observe that nearly 300 miles of good road have been constructed through bare plains of black cotton soil, which have been hitherto quite impassable after any rain, and it would be an omission on my part not to notice the zeal with which the European Officers of all descriptions have exerted themselves on this occasion under the intense heat and other discouragements of such a season as that which has just passed.

From Mr. C. R. PELLY, Assistant Collector of Bellary, to the Collector of Bellary,—(dated Yerraband, 28th January 1854).

I have the honor to report, for your information, the method adopted by me in carrying out, in conformity with your directions, the orders of the Government for the employment of the poorer classes during the present season.

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2. Applicants for work are divided into gangs of 600 each, to each gang is assigned one Mootsuddy, whose duty is to call over the names of the coolies in the morning before seven and in the evening at six o'clock, during the day to go occasionally along the line of coolies with the list, and without calling over the names to ascertain that all are present. It is further his duty to prepare by each sixth day a fresh list, forwarding the old one to the Amildar, and to make daily such entries in the list as may be required, such as idleness or irregularity of attendance on the part of the coolies, absence from sickness or other cause.

3. Each gang of 600 is sub-divided into parties of 120 each ; to superintend each of them, there is one Darogah and two Koolcars ; the Darogah's duty is to superintend generally each party of 120, mark out the line of road from one flag to another, mark out check channels and drains, and attend to the levelling and metalling of the road. The Koolcars have each the immediate superintendence of 60 coolies for the due performance of the work, on whose part they are responsible to the Darogahs, and the Darogahs in turn to the Amildar. The Darogahs and Koolcars are also responsible for the implements supplied on the part of Government to their respective parties.

4. The coolies of one gang or sub-division are not allowed to change to another. If they leave their own party from any other cause than illness, and subsequently re-apply for employment, they have to get themselves entered in a newly forming gang. This is necessary to prevent confusion, and in order that the Mootsuddies, Darogahs, and Koolcars may know their respective gangs and parties. That the gangs may be kept up to the proper number, *viz*, 600, vacancies, as they occur, are filled up from the fresh arrivals.

5. Each gang of 600 is kept well away from the other located as far as practicable in a different village on or in the vicinity of the road, and each sub-division of 120 is also kept separate from the others; thus it is at once apparent what Darogah and Koolcars are to blame for non-performance of work; and in the event of cholera breaking out, the gangs by being then separated will probably suffer less than would be the case were they all assembled in one village.

6. Payments are made according to the enclosed form on the road in the following manner:—The Amildar, Sheristadar, or Peshkar, as the case may be, goes on Monday to one gang of 600 and pays the first sub-division of 120; then moves on to each other sub-division in succession. By this means only 120 coolies are idle at the same time, and but few minutes are lost as the people are on the spot to return to their work as soon as the payment is made. The following day a second gang is paid in the same manner, and when the numbers render it requisite, two gangs can be paid on the same day. The advantage of paying the people on the road in small parties is obvious.

7. It appears to me advisable at present to adhere to the system of payment each fourth or sixth day. The payment should be made by some responsible person whose character or interest places him above any attempts to defraud the coolies. At the present season of the year it is impossible for the Amildar or Sheristadar to make daily payments in person to all the coolies: revenue business requires their presence elsewhere. By making the payment once in four days where there are only four gangs, once in six days where there are six gangs, and if more to two gangs on the same day, occupies a comparatively short time. When the Amildar is absent on revenue business, the Sheristadar and Peshkars make the payments ; in like manner, when the Sheristadar is absent, the Amildar takes his place; when both these Officers are of necessity absent, the Peshkars make the payments, and to the latter Officers occasionally doing so, I see no objection.

8. When European Superintendents are available, the frequency of payment may be increased; but as far as I have seen, the coolies do not after the first six days make any objection to the present system: those coming fresh to the work naturally require immediate payment, and as far as practicable in such cases an earlier disbursement has been made.

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To comment on the execution of the work would be premature. I may, however, in conclusion, remark that a large number of the people employed are of the weaver and other classes totally unaccustomed to such work, awkward in the performance of it, and resorting to it as the only alternative to keep them from crime or starvation during the present season.

General Observations on the roads under formation in the Bellary District.

THE people are worked upon the roads in gangs, each gang being composed of about 1,200 individuals ; and at the head of each gang is an European Overseer, whose duties are to organize the people, to see that the road-work is carried on according to the prescribed measurements, to be present at the payment of the people, and to report to the Officer in charge the quantity of work done daily according to actual measurement.

2. To assist the Overseer in his duties each gang is provided with two Goomastahs, or one for every 600 people. The duties of these men are to number the people and to keep the accounts which they will daily hand over to the Overseer, to whom they will be responsible that no people are charged for but those who have been actually employed upon the work.

Note.—The scale of establishment laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 was acted on as far as practicable ; but it was not always possible to find trustworthy servants in lieu of those discharged for misconduct.

3. To organize the people so as to employ their labor to the best advantage, each gang is divided into 10 parties of 120 each, and to each of these parties is assigned a Darogah and two Koolcars. The Darogah, at the head of each party, is answerable that it is complete, or consists of the proper number ; and as he and the two Koolcars remain with the party during the whole day, it is their duty to check all irregularities, to prevent the people absenting themselves, and to exact from them a proper degree of labor with reference to their physical capabilities.

4. As the Darogah should not be allowed to increase their parties beyond the complement of 120 men, one or two reserve parties each under a Koolcar may be formed to each gang for the immediate admission of people seeking employment. From these reserve parties all deficiencies in the Darogah's gangs should be made up, and when the reserve amounts to nearly the number of a Darogah's party it should be formed and worked like the others.

5. A Maistry attends each gang for the purpose of marking out the work which should be always ready for at least one mile in advance of the spot where the foremost party of the gang may be working. The intervals between the parties should also be marked out in the same manner. This is essential to prevent waste of time arising from the people not knowing where to work. The Maistry is also required to assist in the measurement of the work.

6. It is considered that a European Officer can undertake the executive superintendence of four gangs, making in all about 4,800 men, extending over from 30 to 40 miles of road. This Officer will be constantly moving over his charge to regulate the work, to check irregularities, to stimulate every person employed to exertion, and by personal examination to verify the measurements of the Overseers and Maistries so as to ensure correctness in his Monthly Reports, which, together with a diary of his proceedings, have been called for by the Board of Revenue, Department Public Works.

7. Four European Overseers were originally attached to Captain Devereux, but one has since returned to his Regiment. This Officer has only now three Overseers (or three gangs) under him. The number of people in each gang has varied considerably on account of the visitation of cholera which caused hundreds to leave the work. Lieutenant Law has four Overseers with a corresponding number of gangs under him. It is calculated that the number of people along his charge will amount to at least 5,000.

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8. The Superintending Officer will be provided with sections for his guidance showing the manner in which the road is to be formed in different soils. These sections are all adapted for level ground, being the general character of the line from Bellary towards Hyderabad and Kurnool; but occasionally, where the road passes through low ground, it will require to be raised and in such cases it will be necessary to extend the side slopes at the rate of two feet of base for every foot raised. The side channels will be removed to a corresponding distance on each side, so as to allow the same clear space between the foot of the slope and the side channel, as is shown on the level ground.

9. For instance, according to Section No. 2, the side slope shows five feet of base for one of perpendicular height; but should it be necessary to raise this road for three feet, the space occupied by the base, would be $3 \times 2 = 6$ feet in addition to the original five feet, making in all 11 feet of base, beyond which at a distance of seven feet the side channel will be cut, as shown in the Section.

10. In making the road over level ground in cotton soil, the natural surface of the ground to be occupied by the road is not to be disturbed, nor is it to be raised above the natural level by throwing the same kind of soil upon it; but the road-way is to be raised and formed entirely with gravel, and drained by side channels. as shown in Section No. 2. In excavating the side channels, the whole of the surface soil is to be thrown outside the channels, and only such good firm gravel as may be found in them to be applied to the formation of the road, which, as before stated, is to consist of gravel only. Should this material not be found in sufficient quantity in the side channels at the depth of one yard, pits are to be opened for obtaining it at convenient intervals along the road, say at every 400 yards, where the ground slopes greatly; a check channel may be made on the upperside of the road only; but the practice of digging continuous check channels for the sake of obtaining gravel, and where they are not required for drainage, should be discontinued.

11. In digging for gravel the white clayey kind first met with in the pit is inferior to the more stony kind found at a greater depth. In some cases gravel can be met with at the surface, especially in the banks of nullahs or on the summits of gentle undulations, but in opening pits, the depth at which it is obtainable varies from 1 to 4 yards.

12. When a road in cotton soil has to be raised from its passing through low lands, the raising should be effected in the first with the ordinary soil, and covered afterwards with gravel to the usual thickness. But where bridges or drains are to be built, it is recommended that the raised road, or the natural bank, as the case may be, should be cut to an easy slope for the ascent and descent of bandies, say 1 in 10 or 12, leaving the approaches to the masonry works to be constructed when the works themselves are built. It is not probable that the masonry works for these bridges will be completed for some years to come, and it is of importance therefore that the roads, while under formation, be made at once as easy for the transit of wheeled conveyances as can be done without solid works of masonry.

13. Where it is necessary to make a road over a rugged and rocky surface that precludes the formation of regular side channels, it is desirable that the more prominent rocks be removed by mechanical means (perhaps assisted by fire), and that the whole surface be then covered with good firm soil. To prevent this soil from being washed away by the rains, both sides of the road should be protected by a stone facing, formed with the stones previously removed, to which others should be added should they not prove sufficient.

14. In cases where an old road may have been formed by the removal of large rocks and stones, it appears advisable that this road should in general be followed, if practicable, for carts rather than the labor should be incurred of removing such obstacles for a new road.

15. In firm hard gravelly soil capable of resisting the effect of rain, it will only be necessary to form the road by the excavation of side channels of the dimensions shown in Section No. 3. This will raise the road, as has been ascertained by calculation, about nine inches in the middle so as to form a sloping surface towards each side, and to provide for the wear and tear of traffic. In this case there will be no exterior bank, but all the earth will be required to form the road.

16. Where the road has to be formed over drifted sand, such as the portion in the east bank of the river Huggry at Mokah, where the sand is nearly one mile in extent, the surface to be occupied by the road should first be levelled and then covered with cotton soil and sand mixed together when met to a depth of at least nine inches, water being at hand the above mixture of clay and sand is to be firmly tamped when wet; and should gravel be procurable, a coating of this material of one foot in thickness will be spread over all, and tamped so as to form a hard surface which will be an immense relief to loaded carts and cattle. Instructions have been given to Captain Devereux to form the abovementioned portion in accordance with these remarks; but the surface will afterwards require to be cleared of sand every year, as it is blown up from the bed of the river by the high winds of the westerly monsoon.

17. With reference to the degree of tamping that should be given to the road, there can be no doubt that every road in India should be well watered and beaten during the process of formation. But as water is so scarce at this season, and in many places would have to be brought from a great distance, it will be sufficient in such places to give merely a superficial tamping so as to bind the surface materials together, and to prevent the high winds from blowing away the pulverized clay, leaving a more sufficient tamping to be given to the work when it may be saturated with rain during the monsoon. In some places it is probable water may be found in some of the pits excavated for gravel, which will greatly assist in the first tamping. These gravel pits should be of considerable size, say 10 yards square, as it is probable that some of them may afterwards be turned into wells, and thus they may prove of great benefit to the country.

18. In working the parties a proper proportion of pickaxes, mamoties, and baskets should be allotted to each. The general proportion seems to be 30 picks, 30 mamoties, and 60 baskets for each party. This may admit of modification according to soil and other circumstances. The Superintending Officers will keep a strict account of the Government tools, enforcing upon their subordinates the necessity of preserving them from wanton injury or depredation.

19. When the line of road follows an old track used by bandies, it seems unadvisable to leave the old line without some substantial advantage is to be gained by doing so, such as higher and better ground or a straighter line. Where the old track lies over from soil, and the line is good, nothing more will be required than to cut the side channels and spread the hard soil so obtained over the roadway, according to Section No. 3. But where the old road is much cut up, or where it has become a water course (as frequently happens), it is advisable to carry the line on higher ground either to the right or left. And if in addition to these drawbacks the line is found to be circuitous or otherwise objectionable, it would be best at once to abandon the old for a new and better line if it can be obtained.

20. Each party, *i.e.*, Darogah's party, should be provided with a bamboo, nine feet in length, marked off into feet and inches, and each Darogah and Koolcar should furnish himself with a yard measure similarly marked off. It is also of great importance that each party should be provided with three or four stout ropes, each 100 yards in length, as well as with a supply of 30 or 40 pickets and a couple of mallets. These supplies being always at hand fresh work will easily be marked out when required, and the measurement of work performed will also be greatly facilitated.

APPENDIX XXVI.

21. The attention of the Maistries should be directed to the marking out of the intervals between the parties first, and then to the selecting and laying down of fresh work in advance of the foremost party of each gang. A few people with pickaxes and mamoties, and an intelligent Koolcar, should accompany the Maistry to give assistance in this duty. By this means these people will soon learn to mark out the road independently of the Maistry, which will be a great advantage to the rapid progress of the work.

22. The daily work commences by the people of each party assembling early in the morning under its Darogah, who then proceeds to muster them, and if he can write, he notes in his list the names of the absentees and also of new comers, making his party up to 120 people. He then orders his party to commence work. Meanwhile the Overseer is also in attendance and visits each party in succession, receiving a report from the Darogah which he verifies by examination. Each party on the approach of the Overseer leaves the work and assembles on the roadway in two lines—the able-bodied men forming one side, and the aged, the women and children forming the other. The Overseer passes between the lines and counts the people, orders them to re-commence work, sees that they are properly placed, that work is going on regularly, and passes on to the next party. The parties are placed at from 200 to 300 yards from each other—220 yards would perhaps be a good distance to fix upon as being $\frac{1}{8}$th of a mile, the length of road occupied by a number of parties could be easily calculated.

23. Whilst the people are at work, they have a natural tendency to crowd towards each other, as well as to leave off work at a spot where the ground may be hard in order to take possession of easier soil. It is therefore necessary to assign a certain space to be occupied by a given number of work-people. In some places one pick, one mamoty, and two baskets have been assigned to every three yards in length, whilst in others these numbers and proportions have been varied. The main object, however, should always be kept in view, *viz.*, that of giving the people free space to work in without incommoding each other, and also to prevent accidents in the use of tools from being over-crowded. A party of 120 people working 60 on each side of the road, and occupying its length at the rate of four people for every three yards will cover a length of 45 yards.

24. The people are generally mustered and set to work by 7 A. M. They then work till 11 A. M., when they leave off to rest and cook their meals, should their village be near. This intermission lasts for two hours, *viz.*, till 1 P. M., and people work again till 6. But if their villages be far distant, they prefer one hour's intermission only in the middle of day, and to be discharged at 5 in the evening instead of 6, in order to reach their homes before it becomes dark.

25. The people having been supplied by tools from Government, appear to be in the habit of carrying them home with them in the evening and bringing them back next morning. As long as there is a prospect of a continuance of work, this practice may perhaps not be objectionable, as the possession of implements will be looked upon by the workman as a guarantee for his employment; but when the work is about to cease, a temptation will arise to the laborer to appropriate to his private purposes the implement that has for so long been his companion, and this ought to be guarded against by the adoption of timely measures for the security of the tools.

26. The baskets generally used are too small and ought to be increased in size. This is a point of importance, as upon it depends the time required for the removal of the loose earth. The quantity now carried by the women is, in most cases, less than half what it ought to be. The broad, shallow baskets used by the Wudders is the best pattern. The work of removing earth is performed by the women, children, and the aged men, whilst able-bodied men are engaged in digging with the pickaxe and mamoty.

27. The people are paid at two rates only, *viz.*, two annas for the able-bodied men, and one anna four pice *(sic)* for the infirm and for women, and for boys under 16 years of age. The payments are at present made weekly; but as this is too long an interval, it is desirable that it should be altered, so that the people may receive their wages every day, or at least every second or third day. Under the present system a man may have worked for several days without obtaining his hire, and should he be taken ill or die, the value of his labor will be lost. But besides this, the people employed are those reduced to the lowest ebb of poverty, and who have not the means to purchase daily food at its present triple price. It is, therefore, highly desirable that this means should be given to them, in order that they may daily recruit their strength against the exposure and labor required from them. Such an arrangement, if it can be carried out, is also dictated by humanity; for it would have the effect of keeping the people healthy and fortifying them against disease, and specially cholera to which so many of them have already fallen victims.

28. The system above advocated might be probably carried out by the use of tickets, which could be issued to the people in the morning and taken back in the evening in exchange for daily hire—each ticket being marked with its value, the person holding it would be paid accordingly on presentation. The Overseers, with the assistance of the Gomastahs, might arrange the small change during the day for distribution in the evening, or should small coins not be procurable in sufficient quantity, probably the people would be contented to receive one Rupee daily for every eight or twelve persons, according to the value of their tickets, which they could divide amongst themselves. This arrangement would save a great deal of trouble if it would be more satisfactory to the people to be paid in this manner daily, rather than have to wait a week for their hire. To ascertain this the advantages should be pointed out to the people, and they should be questioned directly by the Officer as to which system they would prefer.

29. It remains for the Civil Engineer to remark upon the orderly conduct of the people, and the cheerful manner in which they perform their work. The organization of the people and their employment in gangs sub-divided into detached parties, was first established by the Collector's Department and afterwards by Captain Devereux, under whom, with the assistance of the Overseers, the system is being carried out with great regularity. The road work has been very efficiently performed, and the progress made more satisfactory, whilst the expenditure has prevented large numbers of the poorer ryots from leaving the country. It will also secure a permanent and important benefit to the district in affording easy transit for its traffic in the direction of the different lines. The roads will still require to be provided with masonry drains and bridges to render them complete; but when these are built, the lines will be of the first class description and equal to any in the Madras Presidency.

30. As the lines from Bellary to Hyderabad and Kurnool are the most direct roads to these important stations, they should be furnished with public bungalows and chowkies for European and Native travellers. At present they are totally destitute of any accommodation of this kind, and if they are allowed to remain so, it will be a great drawback to their utility. The whole of the Bellary District is lamentably deficient in public works of a charitable nature, but the lines abovementioned are peculiarly destitute of trees, or any kind of shelter.

Note.—I concur in this opinion.

31. The lines previously marked out as far as Adony from Bellary have now been marked as far as Madaverum, and Lieutenant Law is engaged in placing his Overseers on this portion, and in advancing the parties from Adony, who have already completed the most of the work assigned to them near that town. As the work advances northward, fresh people from the neighbouring villages will present themselves for employment in large numbers, who are now waiting for the advance of the road to share in the liberality of Government. Some of these

people will bring their own implements, but it will be necessary to provide many of them with Government tools, should any extra tools be available; therefore they should be brought forward by the Overseers with the advanced parties. A fresh supply of tools from Bellary is expected daily up to this date. According to the Collector's Statement 1,649 mamoties and 1,665 pickaxes have been allotted to the Bellary, Goollem, and Adony Talooks, exclusive of hammers and other smaller tools.

32. The subordinates should be instructed to prevent the quantity of gravel placed upon the road from exceeding that allowed in the sections, and also to prevent the people from lingering over their work near their own towns and villages, either by using more than the necessary quantity of material there, or by smoothing and beating the surface so as to make it resemble a garden walk—a degree of finish quite unnecessary to a traffic road—much valuable time and labor have already been lost by the practice above remarked upon. But it should be the object of all in authority over the work to utilize, as rapidly as possible, the product of the present large expenditure of public money, so that the Government may in future reap a good interest from the capital they are now disbursing with such great liberality.

33. It is of great importance that the side and check channels be made passable for carts and cattle whenever a branch road crosses the main line by cutting the sides of channels to an easy slope; and this should be done at intervals of every half mile along the whole length of each line. To give access to the adjoining fields and villages, narrow branch roads may occasionally be made to the villages close to the main roads.

34. As great injury to the roads is to be apprehended from the falling in of the perpendicular side channels which, in some places, have been dug to the depth of five or six yards to obtain gravel, the Civil Engineer particularly requests that these side channels be not in future excavated to a greater depth than one yard.* If more gravel or even earth be required for the road than these will afford, it should be taken either from check channels or from pits. These channels will invariably be cut with sloping, and not with perpendicular sides.

* *Vide Section No. 2.*

35. It has been already stated that these check channels should be dug on sloping ground, and on the upper side of the road only. In cotton soil the best way to obtain gravel is to open large pits at least 10 yards square at intervals of 400 yards, and at a distance of about 10 yards from the sides of the road.

36. The Superintendents are particularly requested to observe that work in sufficient quantity to give employment to the people, shall always be carefully marked upon the ground in advance before the gangs are moved forward for its execution, and that only those gangs or parties be advanced that have already finished the work assigned to them.

37. The Civil Engineer is aware that a paper of this kind, necessarily drawn up in haste and in the midst of other pressing duties, must be imperfect, and that it cannot meet every case that may occur in the formation of expensive lines of road. But he relies upon the judgment of the Superintendents to obviate all the difficulties they may meet with, and to construct the roads under their charge in a solid and efficient manner, whilst he has every confidence that their zeal will lead them to use every judicious means to prevent undue advantage being taken of the liberality of Government. It is understood to be the intention of Government and of the Collector that all who present themselves should find employment to the fullest extent that tools can be procured. But laziness in the able-bodied men must be discouraged, and for this purpose the Civil Engineer recommends that the Overseers should be empowered to summarily dismiss from the work all people who refuse to give their labor according to their strength, and that they should be instructed to bring to notice the names of any Darogahs or Kookars who may fail in their duty of efficient superintendence. It should be

distinctly explained to the people that they are not to give any portion of their wages to the native officials over them, and that any case of this kind brought to notice will subject both the giver and receiver to instant dismissal. This is a point of great importance, and the more so as suspicion points to the practice having already been established.

38. The Civil Engineer cannot conclude this paper without expressing his gratification that, in the course of his inspection of the road from Bellary to the boundary of the district along the Hyderabad line, not a single instance of ill usage of the people has either come under his observation or been brought to his notice; and he has every confidence that the superintendents will do all in their power to perpetuate this kindly feeling towards a people whose sufferings demand every consideration from those placed over them. Many of them hold respectable positions in their own villages; a large number are weavers thrown out of employment and unaccustomed to severe bodily labor; and it is said also that other artizans of a higher class, such as goldsmiths, are to be found amongst them—a lamentable proof of the prevalent distress.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE, 3RD DIVISION,
KURNOOL,
The 13th March 1854.

(Signed) R. HENDERSON,
Civil Engineer, 3rd Division.

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